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THE JERUSALEM POST

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Labour, Likud row over election of permanent Speaker

Post Knesset Correspondent
Alignment Knesset Member Moshe Shahal, chairman of the Knesset Steering Committee, said yesterday that Interim Speaker Abba Eban will shortly convene the Knesset to elect a permanent speaker. But his deputy, the Likud's Haim Hanafi, said Eban could do this only with the approval of the Steering Committee.

Eban is due to take over from Interim Minister Yosef Burg as Interim Speaker after the ruling by Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir that Burg's serving as Interim Speaker was illegal.

Zamir said yesterday that Eban did not have to consult the Steering Committee in convening the House, although he could take its views into consideration. Eban is to serve as Interim Speaker until a permanent Speaker is elected. Eban, 69, is the second oldest member of the House. Burg is 75.

Shahal's proposal that the Steering Committee recommend the election of a permanent Speaker at the next Knesset session was defeated by 12 votes to 11. The National Religious Party tipped the balance against Shahal.

The committee, which devoted about five hours yesterday to long-winded and confusing arguments about the speakership, reflected the paralysis of the Knesset as a whole in the wake of the July 23 election.

(Continued on Back Page)

Histadrut warns Orgad on tax-brackets issue

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV — Histadrut Secretary-General Yisrael Kessar yesterday set a deadline of the end of the week for Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad to rescind his decision not to revise tax brackets upwards in line with the prevailing rate of inflation.

Addressing a heated meeting of Solid Bonell construction company workers, Kessar predicted widespread industrial unrest if Cohen-Orgad does not rescind his decision.

"Time is running out and so is the patience of the workers," Kessar warned.

The Histadrut's new "action committee" to deal with the latest crisis will hold its first meeting today under the chairmanship of Trade Union Department chairman Haim Haherfeld. The committee is due to present its proposals to the labour federation's executive on Sunday.

Trade Union Department sources said last night that selected work places around the country could be hit by warning strikes early next week if Cohen-Orgad does not alter his decision. Dozens of work committees have informed the department of their willingness to join the struggle against the Finance Minister.

The latest confrontation between the Finance Ministry and the Histadrut was sparked by Cohen-Orgad's announcement last Thursday that he would not revise tax brackets, welfare points and child allowances in line with July's 12.4 per cent consumer price index. The reason given

by the finance minister was the Histadrut's refusal to enter "package deal" negotiations for the freezing of wages, prices and taxes.

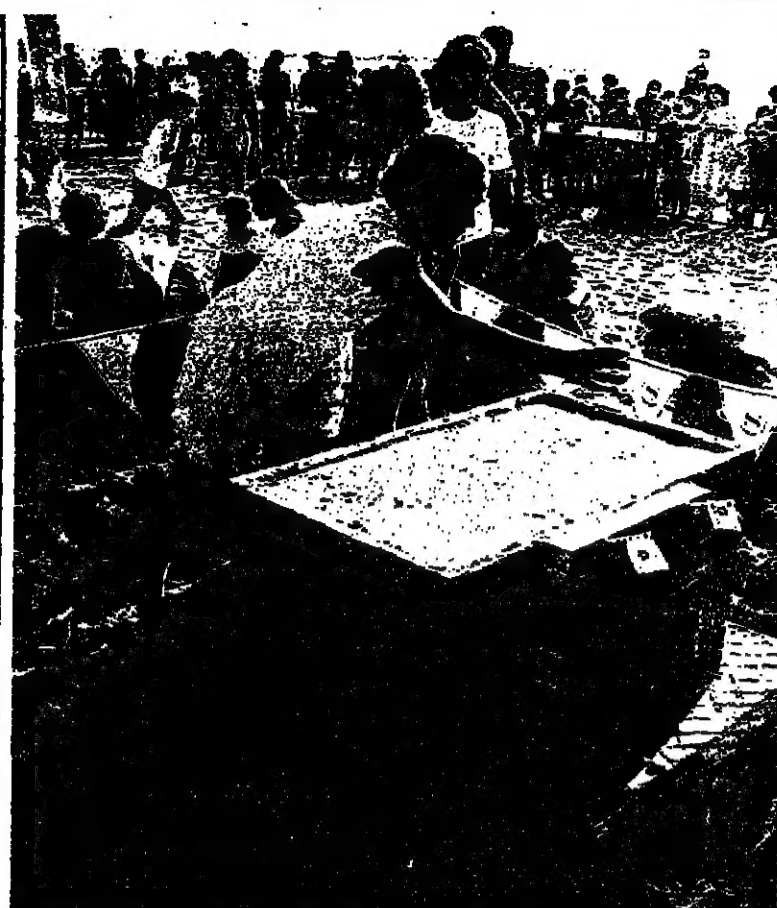
The Histadrut reacted by accusing Cohen-Orgad of breaking a verbal agreement between Kessar and Finance Ministry director-general Nissim Baruch that the tax brackets, allowances and welfare points would be revised whenever the cost-of-living increment was paid.

Relations between the Histadrut and the government have deteriorated rapidly recently, due to Cohen-Orgad's reported threats to unilaterally alter work agreements. A meeting between the two sides last week on the subject of unemployment ended in discord.

Kessar was scathing in his criticism of Cohen-Orgad yesterday. "We will not accept a colonial attitude that dictates terms to the natives," he said. "We will use all legal and organizational measures at our disposal to guarantee the value of wages."

The secretaries of the country's labour councils decided yesterday to establish an action committee to fight the finance minister's decision. The secretaries told of "torrents" of requests from work committees for an all-out struggle.

The secretariat of the Civil Servants Union will meet with Civil Service Commissioner Avraham Natan this morning to discuss the finance minister's decision. The meeting was initiated by Natan following the union's decision to actively participate in the struggle.



An employee of the Tel Aviv Sheraton Hotel yesterday puts the finishing touches on her team's winning sand sculpture of the Hagana headquarters, the "Red House," which was situated where the hotel now stands. First prize in the individual competition was won by artist David Michael, for a sand sculpture of a piano. The contest was sponsored by the Sheraton, but no hotel personnel were among the judges.

(Hanoach Guttmann)

No Israeli military men in Sri Lanka

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel's military-training aid to Sri Lanka — never officially confirmed but never denied — has ceased.

This emerged from a statement issued yesterday by government officials here that there are five Israelis on missions to Sri Lanka — none of them military.

The five officials in Sri Lanka are the head of the Israeli interests office, diplomat David Matnai; an administrative officer attached to the interests office; and three agricultural experts.

The interests office was opened recently in the U.S. embassy in Colombo.

Until yesterday, officials in Jerusalem, when queried about reports of Israeli military-training aid to Sri Lanka, replied that there was no operative aid. In other words, Israel was not involved in the ongoing

military operations against the Tamil dissidents.

As of yesterday, however, the Jerusalem officials are stating categorically that the only Israeli experts in Sri Lanka are diplomats and agricultural experts. Meanwhile, in an apparent reflection of the improving ties between the two countries, a senior Sri Lanka official is visiting Israel — the first to do so since relations were severed in 1970.

He is Douglas J.F. Liyanage, director-general of the Ministry of Interior. Yesterday he met with David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, and Uri Porat, director-general of the Broadcasting Authority.

Liyanage has also visited agricultural and settlement projects in a programme arranged for him by the Foreign Ministry. His visit, however, is formally described as "private."

4 days of mine hunting fail to produce single device

CAIRO (AP). — Four days of hunting by the USS Shreveport and five British vessels in the Gulf of Suez have turned up no mines, U.S. and British officials said yesterday and the mystery of who planted the explosives that have damaged 18 ships in the past six weeks is no closer to solution.

Neither the Shreveport, using its four RH-53D Sea Stallion helicopters in the central Gulf, nor the Lasalle, base for three other helicopters searching the approaches to the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah on the Red Sea, have made any "contacts" in their sonar sweeps, an American Embassy source said.

British diplomatic sources reported a similar lack of progress. Three French mine-hunters also are helping the Saudis and three others are en route for Egypt to help in the search here.

Egyptian sources at Port Said, at the northern end of the Suez Canal, reported that two Soviet minesweepers passed through over the weekend and apparently were headed for South Yemen where the USSR has a naval base. The Soviet Union is not a part of the international mine-hunting effort here.

No explosions have been reported near the Saudi shoreline, and, according to Commodore Alvin Newman, commander of the U.S. mission, it is "essentially a humanitarian operation" because of the large numbers of Moslem pilgrims travelling by sea to the port of Jeddah on the way to the holy city of Mecca.

2 S. Lebanon attacks on IDF, no casualties

Jerusalem Post Reporter
There were two attacks on Israel Defence Forces patrols in South Lebanon yesterday with RPG and light-arms fire. There were no Israeli casualties.

An IDF patrol was attacked yesterday evening at the entrance to the Burj Malat refugee camp near Tyre with RPG and automatic fire. The soldiers returned the fire and a search of the area discovered RPG rounds.

Earlier in the afternoon an explosive device went off, when an IDF patrol went by in the region of Deir Kanoun, 15 kilometres southeast of Tyre.

Aguda reconsiders position Alignment hopes surge after Yahad-Ometz shift

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

The Alignment's hope to lead either a unity government or a narrow coalition surged forward yesterday in the wake of the news that Ezer Weizman's Yahad party and Yigael Hurvitz of Ometz had let it be known that they would not support a Likud-led government.

This means that, even if they were to have National Religious Party support, the Likud could not form a narrow government. The focus now shifted to the two-man Agudat Yisrael faction. The Aguda's two Knesset members and other party keymen convened in Jerusalem late last night for urgent consultations, following the Yahad-Ometz announcement.

"This could be a very, very significant development," Aguda MK Menahem Porush told The Jerusalem Post.

Weizman was considering whether to call a press conference this morning to explain publicly his party's position.

Labour sources said last night that Hurvitz and Weizman had adopted their more favourable position — from Labour's standpoint — because of their growing anger and frustration over the government's economic policies.

Hurvitz was said to be agitated and bitter at the government's "book-keeping exercise" last month designed to make the loss of foreign

currency reserves seem less grave than it really was.

In the Likud, though, there were hopes that Weizman "has not yet said his last word." Likud circles recognized that the Yahad leader was angry. But these circles predicted that he would not, in the final analysis, lend his hand to the creation of a minority government resting on Communist support.

Labour's "bait" to draw Aguda into this scheme would be the promise of a free vote — that is a conscience vote, without party whips — on the issue of "Who is a Jew?" Well-placed Labour sources acknowledged last night that their party was prepared to play this "last card" if it could secure for them the leadership of the government.

Non-Orthodox lobbyists fighting the "Who is a Jew?" amendment acknowledge privately that in a free vote in the Knesset the Orthodox-inspired amendment (defining conversion as "according to Halacha") would probably be passed.

Labour leaders look towards Aguda with some confidence because that party has made it clear it wants to be in government, not in opposition. Its position hitherto — dictated by one of its spiritual leaders, Rabbi Eliezer Schach of Bnei Brak — has been that Aguda must not betray the Likud as long as the Likud has any chance of forming a government.

Labour believes the Yahad-Ometz stand will have the following effects:

• It will eliminate any prospect of the president's mandating the Likud's Yitzhak Shamir to try to form a government when Alignment

leader Shimon Peres ends his first 21-day term as premier-designate on Sunday. Without Yahad (three seats) and Ometz (one seat) Shamir cannot attain a majority. Peres, therefore, will almost definitely be given an extension.

• It will prompt the Likud to be more forthcoming and less demanding in the unity talks. Most especially, it should lead the Likud to accept Peres as premier of a unity government, since Shamir's chances of forming a Likud-led narrow government have been gravely weakened.

• Alternatively, it may resuscitate the scenario of a narrow government led by Labour. Some circles in Labour and Mapam, consistently unenthusiastic over the unity scenario, have been pressing for the Alignment to set up a minority government as a first stage, on the assumption that the minority would quickly grow into a majority.

In this scenario, Yahad and Ometz are crucial in the first stage and Aguda in the second.

If Weizman and Hurvitz agree to join a minority government resting on the passive support of the (Communist) Democratic Front for Peace and Equality and the Progressive List for Peace, and if Tami's Aharon Abuhazzeira goes with them, the Alignment could reach the required 61 votes in the initial vote of confidence.

The hope among the promoters of this scenario is that since the arithmetical possibility could exist if Weizman, Hurvitz and Abuhazzeira

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

Orgad, Ya'acobi outline economic goals

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

A document jointly prepared by Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad and Alignment-Knesset Member Gad Ya'acobi will be presented tomorrow to the Likud and Alignment teams discussing economic matters. It will outline the economic targets of a possible national unity government as crystallized in three rounds of talks by the teams.

The teams met for three hours yesterday at the Knesset and discussed a proposal written by Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i. The document, barely half a page long, contained a general statement of purpose, such as fighting inflation and the balance-of-payments deficit. It

said little about the ways of achieving these objectives except to state that the teams would agree on the details.

According to Ya'acobi, the Alignment's "shadow finance minister," the teams made considerable progress yesterday and a special effort will be made to finish the preparation of a joint programme by Friday. He warned, however, that such a programme will contain only targets and policy objectives and not details about specific steps. These details should be decided upon only by a government, not by negotiating teams. Ya'acobi said.

Yesterday's meeting opened with a petition by Alignment members to Cohen-Orgad to reconsider his deci-

sion not to adjust income-tax brackets in line with the July rise in the consumer price index. But the minister did not promise anything and said that there is no agreement that obliges him to adjust the brackets this month.

Both sides agreed that on the question of new settlements in the administered territories, they would accept the accord reached by the teams discussing political matters.

On the possibility of a package deal between the Histadrut and the government, the Alignment representatives said that the labour federation is an independent body and details of such an accord must be decided with the Histadrut's leaders.

U.S. won't alter \$9b. debt to ease Israel's problems

By WOLF BLITZER
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — The U.S. will not reschedule Israel's \$9 billion debt or take any other additional measures to ease Israel's economic problems until Israel enacts a new, across-the-board austerity plan aimed at reducing inflation and government spending.

Although U.S. officials, who made this comment yesterday, were reacting to a report in Newsweek magazine that Israel was hoping "for some election year generosity from the U.S. to keep its economy afloat."

The report said some Israeli economic planners want Washington to extend the grace periods for repayment of Israel's U.S. debt by five years, "thus staving off a payback of about \$1b. scheduled for next year."

In addition, the report said, "the Israelis would like Washington to forgive the remaining capital repayments over a period of years."

"Forgiving Israel's debt," says one top official, "would not solve the

country's financial problems."

Israeli diplomats yesterday said a high-level team of Israeli officials is due in Washington next month for the annual International Monetary Fund meetings.

At that time, they are expected to meet with Secretary of State George Shultz and other U.S. officials to discuss additional ways to ease Israel's economic problems.

But the Americans yesterday made clear that Israel must first come forward with a specific plan of attack — one that will get to the heart of addressing Israel's economic turmoil. "So far," U.S. officials said, "they have simply applied band-aids."

Samaria settler fired at

ARIEL (Him). — A resident of the Jewish settlement Einav in Samaria was fired on near this town yesterday as he was driving along the Trans-Samaria Road. He was not hurt and there was no damage to his car.

Former agent reveals 30-year secret to 'Times':

Lehi had spy in British Mandate military

By HYAM CORNEY
Jerusalem Post Correspondent

LONDON. — A Jewish spy who worked at British military headquarters in Mandatory Palestine and passed on vital information to the Lehi underground organization (the Stern group) has for the first time revealed his identity and given details of his activities.

In an interview published in yesterday's Times with its Jerusalem correspondent Christopher Walker, David Rubovitz confesses: "Whenever I came across an interesting statement, particularly in the classified fortnightly intelligence reports, I used to copy it on the spot on a slip of paper while sitting at my desk."

Rubovitz, 67, was born in Eretz Yisrael. He recently retired as internal auditor of the Jewish Agency.

According to The Times from May 1945 till April 1948, he was in charge of the transport section in the British Military Headquarters at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. He was in his office at the time of the bombing of the hotel on July 22, 1946, even though he knew what was going to happen. He did not stay away that day, he told Walker, because "if I was absent when it happened, I would have blown my cover."

Rubovitz was recruited as a spy for Lehi (Hebrew acronym for Lohamei Herut Yisrael — Fighters for the Freedom of Israel) by a young woman known only as "Yael," who visited him at home early one morning.

At a second meeting three days later, he agreed "to pass on all the information he could obtain." He was convinced, he said, "that only

fighting the way Lehi did, against army and police personnel, would force the British out of Palestine and enable the Jewish people to establish a homeland."

Rubovitz claims to have had access to documents relating to British troop strength, troop movements and assessments of the threat posed by the underground. The information he passed on helped Lehi to plan ambushes.

The "most important" document he passed on was a fortnightly intelligence report of September 1946, which contained the following British assessment: "The constant murderous attacks of Stern may, if increased, cause His Majesty's Government to reconsider its position in the country. There is no doubt that the Stern Gang is the most dangerous element in the Middle East that

our forces have to deal with."

Why has it taken known in those documents, "Yigal" years to break his silence? Rubovitz's answer is that he was a "liar" and he wanted to put the record straight while he could.

Rubovitz told Walker: "No man lives forever. I am very old and have always run away from publicity. But I think that the people in Britain and in Israel are entitled to know, once and for ever, who really caused the British Government to quit Palestine in 1948."

By a coincidence, The Jewish Chronicle this weekend published revelations about a would-be spy.

(Continued on Back Page)

Treasury 'working paper' makes plans for new taxes

Post Economic Reporter

The Finance Ministry has not denied reports yesterday that it is considering imposing a property tax or introducing a capital-gains tax on individuals, saying only that these proposals have not yet been discussed at levels.

Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orgad said yesterday that the proposals for new taxes are included in a "working paper" prepared by ministry officials. He added that many such working papers are being prepared and none of them could be considered final until raised at the decision-making level.

Sources at the ministry said yesterday that the proposals for new taxes are part of a package of cuts and measures to foster savings that the ministry plans to raise at the cabinet in the next few weeks.

Cohen-Orgad had promised his colleagues in the cabinet to bring a plan for drastic budget slashes before the end of the month.

According to the sources, the ministry's budget division is busy preparing the details of the proposed

cuts, although the minister has not yet seen all of them.

The sources added that one of the main difficulties is that Cohen-Orgad is politically weak, and this prevents him from demanding sacrifices from other ministers. "As long as the coalition talks are going on, he will not dare to clash with other parties or with other ministers," they said.

Sources close to Cohen-Orgad complained yesterday that his colleagues have not been giving him enough support lately. According to these sources, it is possible that "someone in the Likud" had decided to start a "delegitimization campaign against the minister."

Economic and political observers in Jerusalem noted that during the last few days Cohen-Orgad's chances of returning to the Treasury after the new government is formed have dwindled. The observers pointed out that even if the Likud forms the government, Energy Minister Yitzhak Moda'i may demand the post for himself, a demand that will have the support of the

Vehicles to be barred at Shouf bridge

By MENAHEM HOROWITZ
Jerusalem Post Reporter

METULLA. — Military sources in South Lebanon said yesterday that as of Thursday, private Lebanese vehicles will not be permitted to cross between North and South Lebanon. The crossing point at Batei al-Shouf north of Jezzeine was closed yesterday for repairs, widening, and preparations for the new arrangements.

The sources noted that several booby-trapped vehicles discovered recently in the South had been infiltrated from the North.

Trucks will be allowed through, although a way of issuing permits to northerners coming south has not yet been worked out since the Israeli liaison office in Beirut was closed two months ago. Persons travelling in private vehicles will have to leave them at Batei al-Shouf.

The Batei al-Shouf crossing-point between North and South has been the only one active for several months, as Druse and Shi'ite road-blocks on the coastal road prevented the use of that route.

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	MIN.	C	F	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	10	19	66	24	Clear
BRUSSELS	11	20	68	25	Clear
BUEENOS AIRES	1	44	111	85	Clear
CHICAGO	22	71	158	78	Clear
COPENHAGEN	13	55	131	84	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	11	52	126	79	Clear
GENEVA	11	52	126	79	Clear
HELSINKI	15	59	136	82	Cloudy
HONG KONG	24	75	165	82	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	10	50	122	72	Clear
LONDON	15	59	136	82	Clear
LONDON	16	61	140	84	Cloudy
MADRID	15	59	136	82	Clear
MONTREAL	15	59	136	82	Clear
NEW YORK	19	66	151	77	Clear
OSLO	12	54	129	71	Clear
PARIS	16	61	140	84	Clear
RIO DE JANEIRO	12	54	129	71	Cloudy
SAO PAULO	18	64	145	74	Cloudy
STOCKHOLM	13	55	131	84	Clear
TOKYO	27	81	178	91	Clear
TORONTO	18	64	145	74	Clear
VIENNA	14	57	135	72	Cloudy
ZURICH	11	52	126	79	Clear

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

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THE WEATHER

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's	Max
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min-Max	
Jerusalem	55	17-28	18-28	28
Golan	42	17-28	18-28	28
Nahariya	41	16-26	17-26	26
Safed	41	16-26	17-26	26
Tiberias	37	15-25	16-25	25
Nazareth	48	18-28	19-28	28
Afula	47	18-28	19-28	28
Shomron	47	18-28	19-28	28
Tel Aviv	61	21-30	22-30	30
B-G Airport	55	21-30	22-30	30
Jericho	43	21-35	22-35	35
Gaza	67	21-35	22-35	35
Beersheba	57	18-30	19-30	30
Eilat	29	24-36	25-36	36

Dan charged with sex discrimination

TEL AVIV (Itim). - The Dan bus cooperative was charged with illegal discrimination on the basis of sex at the regional labour court here yesterday.

The charge was brought by the Histadrut's department of hired women workers, which contended that the cooperative was guilty of discrimination when it fired 30 women drivers effective September 3.

The Histadrut representative asked the court for an injunction to halt the firings and a ruling branding them illegal.

Dan's counsel rejoined that the women had been hired temporarily at the request of the Defence Ministry, which is training women to take over certain jobs in case of emergency.

The attorney said that it was impossible to give the women permanent work as drivers, since it was found they were not suitable. For instance, they could not work the long hours or drive at night. He added that women were also unsuitable as drivers along routes passing through Orthodox neighbourhoods.

The next session of the court was set for September 3.

Hammer will consider teachers' parity demand

Jerusalem Post Staff

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer is to decide within a few days whether to support teachers' demands for a parity bonus. He is to make his decision after studying figures, which he requested yesterday at a meeting with Finance Minister Yigal Cohen-Orad, on parity bonuses paid to other professionals, especially engineers.

The teachers have threatened to delay the start of the school year unless they get a bonus.

Cohen-Orad told Hammer that the engineers had in fact not received the parity bonus and therefore teachers had no grounds to demand it. Moreover, the finance minister said, following the agreement to implement the Etzioni Commission recommendations to raise teachers' wages, the teachers were not entitled to any other increases.

Ex-village league head jailed for bombing

RAMALLAH (Itim). - The former head of the Bethlehem district village league, Bishara Kumsiya, was sentenced yesterday by the Ramallah Military Court to two years' imprisonment and five years' suspended, for a number of crimes against political rivals, including a bombing attempt on the life of Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij.

Four of Kumsiya's sons were also convicted of involvement in the crimes and yesterday were sentenced to various lesser terms of

HOME AND WORLD NEWS

85,000 persons jobless in 2nd quarter of year

Jerusalem Post Staff

One of the highest unemployment rates registered since the end of the 1965-1967 recession was recorded during the second quarter of this year.

According to figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics, 8.9 per cent of the civilian labour force, or about 85,000 persons, were jobless. The unemployment rate stood at 5.7 per cent during the first quarter and at 4.9 per cent at the end of 1983.

The figures showed that the unemployment rate among women was considerably higher than for men. The figure for women, 7.2 per cent, was similar to those registered in recent years. The figure for men, 5.2

per cent, showed that it was among the men that unemployment is spreading more rapidly.

The report came one day after the director of the Employment Service, Baruch Haklai, warned that a doubling in unemployment rates could follow the government's plans to freeze the signing of contracts with suppliers.

Other figures published by the bureau pointed to an economic slowdown during the second quarter. The figures showed that building starts during the first six months of the year were down from 15,200 to 12,100 in the same period a year ago. Completion of housing units also fell, from 14,700 in January-June 1983 to 13,800 in the first half of this year.

Some West Bank students boycott Jordan examination

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HEBRON. - About half the Arab college students in Judea and Samaria boycotted the Jordanian examinations in an act said by Israeli and Arab sources to demonstrate support for the PLO.

Sources in the civil administration told *The Jerusalem Post* that only 1,000 of the 2,000 college students in the areas had registered for the annual examinations as Jordan had been demanding. These exams do not apply to university students.

The sources said the tests were conducted quietly in all the colleges

except Ramallah, where pupils tore the questionnaires. Stones were thrown at two Ramallah schools, a military source said.

The opposition was reported to reflect students' support for the PLO against Jordan's attempt to impose its will in the areas.

Jordan had instituted these examinations three years ago throughout the kingdom, but West Bank students last year boycotted them.

It was not clear whether those who disturbed the peace yesterday were among the 1,000 who did register for the tests or those who did not.

3 killed in traffic accidents

Three pedestrians were killed in traffic accidents in different parts of the country yesterday.

In Jaffa, Shimon Shitrit, 60, was hit by a bread-delivery van that drove onto the pavement. He was taken to the nearby Wolfson Hospital, where he died of his injuries. The driver, a 42-year-old Tel Aviv resident, is being held for questioning.

Shlomo Luria, 42, an inmate of the Megged Mental Hospital in the

Sharon, was hit by a taxi at the Neveh Ne'eman crossroads in Hod Hasharon. He was taken to Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital, where he died of his injuries.

Near Kibbutz Ein Gev in Galilee, an eight-year-old Jerusalem girl, Liat Levy, was run over and killed as she was crossing the road. She was taken to the Ein Gev clinic and from there to the hospital in Tiberias, where she was pronounced dead. (Itim)

Body of girl tentatively identified

EILAT (Itim). - Articles of clothing belonging to Miri Herzog, 18, were identified yesterday by her sister Orli Sofer at the Egyptian police station in Nuweiba.

Herzog disappeared while camping in Sinai in July. The body of a young woman matching her description

was found earlier this month. Sofer was allowed to view the clothing, but not the body. She was told by the police that its state made identification impossible.

Egyptian consul Hassan Issa said here yesterday that the body may be transferred to Israel today.

MKs to see Tel Mond jail conditions

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. - A delegation of Knesset members will probably visit Tel Mond prison on Thursday to examine the conditions under which the suspected members of the alleged Jewish terrorist underground are being held.

In a letter to Knesset Member Mordechai Virshubski (Shinui) yesterday, Interior Minister Yosef Burg said that he had arranged for the MKs to meet with the governor of Tel Mond prison and the acting prisons commissioner. Burg did not mention a meeting with the prisoners, though it is unlikely that the

MKs will be prevented from touring the prison.

Virshubski, who initiated the request for the visit, yesterday responded to Burg by reminding the minister that he had asked to visit Ramle prison as well. The intention, Virshubski wrote, is to compare the conditions of the Jewish prisoners with those of other prisoners being held on similar charges.

Burg stressed in his letter that journalists and aides would not be permitted to join the MKs on the visit. So far, MK Eliezer Waldman (Tehiya) and the Progressive List for Peace have expressed interest in joining the delegation.

Haifa told to cut budget sharply

By DAVID RUDGE

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. - The Interior Ministry has told Haifa municipality to cut its proposed IS14.5 billion budget for the 1984-85 fiscal year by nearly a third. *The Jerusalem Post* was told yesterday.

The ministry's acting director-general, Ya'acov Markovitz, warned that unless the budget is reduced considerably the municipality will face an "insoluble economic crisis."

The municipality has now been asked to revise the budget to ensure

that it does not exceed the ministry's guidelines.

The ministry spokesman, Yitzhak Agassi said the municipality must trim its budget by at least IS1.5b, to bring it in line with the recommendations.

"We rely on them to find suitable ways of reducing the budget," he said.

Meanwhile, the ministry still has no solution to the financial problems of Kiryat Ata, where the 600 municipal employees have been on strike since August 9 in protest against non-payment of their July salaries.



Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek (right) meets yesterday in his office with the visiting American jazz group, Manhattan Transfer. Left to right, group members Charyl Bentley, Tim Hanser, Janis Siegel and Alan Paul.

Contradictory testimony at Hefetz disciplinary trial

PETAH TIKVA (Itim). - A high-ranking police officer yesterday contradicted the testimony of the head of Southern District Commander Avraham Turgeman in the disciplinary trial of Assistant Commander Assaf Hefetz.

Hefetz was suspended in March for speaking to reporters about police errors in conveying information on the so-called "Lifta gang," a Jerusalem group who planned to bomb Moslem holy sites.

Superintendent Ya'acov Raz testified yesterday that Turgeman asked him to speak with journalist Yair Kotler concerning the theft of antique coins from the Ha'aretz Museum, and also asked him to let Kotler speak with and photograph a suspect in the case.

Raz's testimony contradicted Turgeman's, who said last week that

it was only by chance that Kotler had met the suspect in Raz's company. Turgeman also testified that after he heard of the interview, he reprimanded Raz.

Raz said yesterday he remembered no reprimand. Another defence witness yesterday also gave testimony implying that the standing order to police personnel not to speak with journalists is observed mainly in the breach.

Dani Sadeh, Haifa correspondent for *Yedioth Aharonot*, testified that he had met with Northern District Police Commander Rahamin Haddad in a hotel lobby, where Haddad gave him classified documents knowing that they would be published.

Part of yesterday's court session was held behind closed doors. Hefetz is due to testify today.

Nigeria denounces visit by tribal rulers

LAGOS (Reuter). - Nigeria yesterday denounced the visit to Israel by two prominent Nigerian tribal rulers, one of them a powerful Moslem figure.

"The Nigerian government is embarrassed by the visit," Foreign Minister Ibrahim Gambari told a hastily convened press conference. "We disapprove of it," he said.

"We do not agree that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and the mission there has nothing to do with the federal government," he said.

The visitors, King Alajeluwa oba okunze Ijuwado, traditional leader of the 14-million Yoruba tribe of West Nigeria, and Emir Alhaji ado Abdulahi Bayero, second-ranking traditional ruler of the predominantly Moslem north, on Sunday met President Chaim Herzog and Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Israeli officials described the visit as a private one, but its announcement seemed to take most Nigerians by surprise, particularly the presence of the Emir.

Blum: car-bomb proves PLO criminal

UNITED NATIONS (Reuter). - Israel has told Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar that the PLO's Abu-Musa faction had claimed responsibility for a car-bomb discovered in the centre of Jerusalem last Wednesday.

In a letter made public yesterday, Israel Ambassador to the UN Yehuda Blum said it was only through civilian alertness that a "major catastrophe was providentially averted" and the police were able to neutralize the bomb.

He added: "This bragging about responsibility for an attempt to commit a crime of such severity serves as further proof, if such is still needed, of the criminal character of the terrorist PLO as a whole, irrespective of which of its 'wings' is involved in a particular atrocity."

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Top Egyptian says Israel rejects U.S. plan for Taba

By WOLF BLITZER

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. - Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmed Esmat Abdel Meguid, says that Israel has turned down an American proposal that the two sides negotiate the disputed status of Taba in Washington.

"The Israelis insisted that we negotiate in Jerusalem," he said. "The Americans said come and negotiate in Washington. We agreed to that, but Israel refused. We refuse to go to Jerusalem but we do not refuse to negotiate. Israel has insisted that we negotiate in Jerusalem."

Abdel Meguid, who was interviewed in the latest issue of *Newsweek* cited three conditions for helping to pave the way for the return of the Egyptian ambassador to Tel Aviv.

"I hope that Israel can be per-

sueded to re-establish normal diplomatic relations," he said. "They must withdraw from Lebanon. We see movement on the Palestinian issue and on negotiations regarding Taba. I think this could help a lot, and I feel that there are some indications inside Israel showing readiness to do that. I don't think the Israelis or the Egyptians are pleased with the state of affairs as they exist."

Abdel Meguid, a former ambassador to the UN, said he supported the peace process with Israel. "I was part of the peace process since the very beginning, and I feel that the peace process was a great achievement by our late president Anwar Sadat. We are committed to peace and we would like to see peace extended. Israel has to help us on this, but for the last two years, the Israeli attitude has not been very helpful."

Zamir: MKs' altered pledges should have been disqualified

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Attorney General Yitzhak Zamir issued a **COMPANY** about the declaration of allegiance by Kach Knesset member Itzhak Kahane and two other MKs who added words that do not appear in the text of the Basic Law.

At the Knesset opening session last week, Yitzhak Waldman (Tehiya) and Avraham Veridger (Morasha) both said, "I so pledge, with the help of God" while Kahane said, "I so pledge, and I shall keep Thy law for ever and ever" (the

addition being a passage from Psalm 119).

Zamir said that since these three pledges had not been disqualified on the spot by Interim Speaker Yosef Burg, they would have to be accepted *post factum*.

The three were therefore MKs in every sense, and they did not need to make the pledge again, Zamir said. In future, Zamir said, any MK diverging from the written text of the declaration of allegiance should have that declaration disqualified on the spot.

Steering Committee members said yesterday that Zamir's ruling was a rebuke to Burg, who bungled the conduct of the opening session at several points but later claimed that he deliberately held a lighter rein, to avoid trouble.

MKs Mohammed Miari and Mattityahu Peled, of the Progressive List for Peace, withdrew their High Court petition against Burg's serving as Interim Speaker, after Zamir's ruling that his serving was illegal.

Syrian envoy meets Jemayel

BEIRUT (Reuter). - A top Syrian official yesterday met President Amin Jemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karamah to try to activate a stalled plan to deploy Lebanese troops in hills around Beirut.

General Mohammed Kholi, a senior adviser to Syrian President Hafez Assad, held six hours of talks with the two men which he described as positive.

"There are obstacles for which there may be a suitable solution," he said after the meeting. He later flew back to Damascus with a message for Assad from the Lebanese president.

Druse militiamen have fought with the Lebanese Army, backed by Christian militiamen, for the past three nights in the hills southeast of Beirut and 10 persons were hurt in Sunday night's fighting.

Syria, which strongly supports Karamah's "national unity" government, wants an end to the clashes soon to help consolidate security in the capital itself, where troops deployed in early July to stop months of fighting.

The Lebanese cabinet approved the first stage of a security plan when it last met, on August 8, and Karamah said implementation could begin by August 18. But there has been no progress since then.

Jordan-Egypt exchange on Mideast peace

ALEXANDRIA (AFP). - Jordan and Egypt have exchanged letters concerning the Middle East peace process. Jordanian court official Adnan Abu-Ouda brought a letter from King Hussein to President Mubarak here and will take back the Egyptian president's reply.

Presidential aide Osama al-Baz told reporters that the letters dealt with the possibilities for advancing peace in the light of recent Middle East developments. He reiterated Egypt's support for an international conference on the Middle East. Al-Baz added that the joint Egypt-Jordan economic committee would be meeting in October.

Woman attacked with ax during family dispute

REHOVOT (Itim). - A woman was critically wounded here yesterday afternoon when her husband apparently attacked her with an ax in front of their two children during a family dispute.

A Magen David Adom ambulance crew found the woman lying in the stairwell of her apartment building, and worked for nearly 40 minutes before they could risk moving her to the hospital. The normally brief trip from Rehovot to Sheba Medical Centre in Tel Ashomer took 50 minutes, because the medics were forced to stop a number of times to resuscitate the woman.

The woman was hospitalized in critical condition in the neuro-surgery department. Her husband was arrested.

Samaria settlement to fire Arab workers

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The secretariat of Kedumim, the first Jewish settlement in Samaria, has decided to dismiss all the Arab workers employed there in industry and services.

A spokesman said the settlement had merely decided to "revive" an old resolution in order to encourage Jews to work in Samaria.

Body washes ashore

TEL AVIV (Itim). - The body of a Hadera man, 62, yesterday washed ashore at the Dolphinarium Beach near Jaffa. An ambulance crew tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate him for 40 minutes, before taking him to the Aviv's Hadassah Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Release of the man's name was withheld pending notification of his family.

DEAN - Dr. Amnon Sella has been appointed dean of students of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, effective September 1. He will replace Prof. Amirav Gonen.

Darché Noam
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of Jewish Studies

Warmly welcomes our devoted friends

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Lennon
of Chicago, Illinois

HAGA (Civil Defence) Exercise
in the northern part of Israel

A Haga exercise will be held today and tomorrow, August 21 and 22, in the northern part of Israel. During the exercise, the sound of firing and explosions and aircraft will be heard. In the event of a real attack, the sirens will sound a rising and falling note.

Our heartfelt condolences to Carmelo and Marshall Samat on the tragic death, in the U.S., of their son

IDO
The residents of Navot

Ariel Magazine

deeply mourns the untimely death of the editor of its French edition

LYDA SCHECHTMAN
and extends its sincere condolences to her family.

On the thirtieth day after the passing of our beloved husband and father

SHALOM POYAS

a memorial service and the unveiling of the tombstone will be held on Wednesday, August 22, at 3.30 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery. We will meet at the entrance.

The Family

HOME NEWS

Summer time will end at midnight Saturday

By AARON SITTNER
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The public was reminded by the Interior Ministry yesterday that the 16-week trial summertime period ends this weekend.

"That means," said ministry spokesman Yitzhak Agassi, "that at midnight Saturday we shall be turning our clocks and watches back one hour. All airlines operating to and from Israel have already been notified, so that their schedules should reflect the correct hour of arrival and departure."

Summertime came into being at midnight Saturday, May 5, by an executive order signed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg.

The minister, who personally opposes summertime, because it raises problems of religious observance, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday: "Most of those who demanded it preferred that it last through September 29. However, August 25 is a better date. It means that if, as hoped, the school year starts on time, children will not have to readjust themselves a few weeks later to a new time regime."

Meanwhile, several government ministries and public agencies are busy preparing their findings on the advantages or disadvantages of summertime.

Kael Ne'eman, an Energy Ministry official, told *The Post*: "Preliminary figures show a definite saving in money spent on energy. The biggest economies were noted in domestic lighting, followed by savings in power used for air conditioners in

homes, offices and factories."

According to Ne'eman, an energy savings of nine tenths of one per cent was noted the very first day summertime came into being, on May 5, and ministry experts say even larger savings occurred later, as more air conditioners were put into operation. She estimated that "on the average, the daily saving in electricity consumption has been 375,000 kilowatt-hours, which in money terms is about \$24,500."

The Energy Ministry's complete findings will not be ready for submission to Burg for at least another month. Other agencies that are to submit their findings are the Productivity Institute, Ports Authority, Police, National Road Safety Council, and Education Ministry.

David Rudge adds from Haifa: The summertime experiment is expected to save the country nearly \$3 million. Preliminary estimates indicate that electricity consumption dropped by one per cent following the introduction of summertime last May.

The Electric Corporation announced previously that the first month of summertime resulted in a net financial saving of more than \$700,000.

The *Jerusalem Post* learned that the drop in consumption announced then had been maintained and therefore the overall saving for the four-month period is expected to reach about \$3m.

The IEC spokesman could not confirm the amount because precise results have not been calculated.

Rally in TA tonight for national unity gov't

Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV. — A group calling itself Telem-Movement for Zionist Fulfillment will demonstrate this evening in Kikar Malchei Yisrael in favour of a national unity government.

In advertisements published yesterday, the group said only the combined pressure of non-partisan groups representing people of all walks of life could persuade the parties to form such a broad government.

Abraham Shavit, the former president of the Manufacturers' Association and former chairman of El Al's board of directors, told *The Jerusalem Post* he did not believe the state can be run by a narrow coalition with a broad opposition. "You can't run it when 50 per cent of the public is in the opposition," he stressed.

Shavit said the speakers at the 8 p.m. rally will not be politicians.

Row brews over closing of Netanya street

NETANYA (Itim). — "We won't compete with Petah Tikva, and we have no intention of turning Netanya into a second Bnei Brak," Mayor Yoel Elroy said yesterday.

He made his comments as a controversy shaped up over the possible closing of a street here on Shabbat and other Jewish holy days.

Following a request from a Rabbi at the large Vitznitz Hassidic synagogue and Ben Elroy's in Rehov, Abraham Shavit, Elroy agreed to have a sign put up asking non-observant drivers not to use the street on Shabbat and other Jewish holy days.

The street, a relatively short one, has another synagogue and its population is about evenly divided between Orthodox and others — the

former, however, including a preponderance of families with many children.

Elroy stressed that the sign was a request only, and not obligatory. However, non-observant residents of the street are preparing a petition asking that the street not be closed. Elroy said yesterday that any further action depended on a decision of the municipal traffic committee, which would be followed by a public discussion.

Arab schools open Sept. 1

Israel's Arab schools will start their academic year on Saturday September 1. This was confirmed yesterday by the Education Ministry after there had been some confusion as to the opening date of Arab schools.



An aerial view of the Acre dig, showing a staircase passing from the Canaanite-period fortification into the city.

Burial jar dates old Acre to Middle Canaanite period

By DAVID RUDGE
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Archeologists have uncovered a burial jar containing the remains of a child from part of the original earthen defence works of Ancient Acre, where the 10th season of excavations has just ended.

The burial jar, which had apparently been dug into the upper surface of the city's inner rampart, dates back to the Middle Canaanite period, 2050-1800 BCE.

The find has enabled the archeologists, led by Prof. Moshe Dothan, to determine the date of Acre's earliest fortifications.

Dothan, head of Haifa University's newly formed Archeology Department, believes the discovery will be decisive in resolving the long-standing controversy among Israeli archeologists over the existence of fortified settlements during the Middle Canaanite period.

The burial jar was discovered among the remains of the original rampart on the inner side of the city. The jar was decorated with stripes, believed to represent a gate or tower.

A perforated stone, thought to have been a fisherman's weight, was found inside the burial jar, under the child's skull.

The archeologists continued their excavations in the north-western corner of the site, where they hope to find evidence of another gate in addition to the previously discovered "Sea Gate."

This season's dig in the rampart exposed a section of a postern passage, which may have led to another gate that may still be buried in the vicinity. Dothan said the postern outlet had been destroyed by bulldozers, which have been removing sand from the site recently.

7th part of victim's body found in garbage dump

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — A seventh part of the dismembered body of murder victim Amalia Abutbul was discovered yesterday in a trash bin as it was being emptied at the Arad garbage dump. The other sections of Abutbul's body were found by children playing at the dump on Sunday morning.

Today the suspect in the slaying, a man in his twenties, is to be brought for a remand hearing in the Beersheba Magistrates' Court. He was arrested in Arad on Sunday night.

Yesterday the police asked the court to order an autopsy on the victim. A police representative told the court the investigators still need to establish the cause of death, murder weapon, scene of the crime and how the body of Abutbul, 24, was dismembered. The victim's father, Avraham Abutbul, did not oppose the autopsy request and it was granted.

Indictment imminent in Tiran Zano slaying

BEERSHEBA (Itim). — The police have completed their investigation of the murder of Tiran Zano in Eilat on August 7 and on Sunday submitted the file to the Southern District Attorney for the preparation of an indictment.

The suspect is Meir Ohayon, 22, of Dimona. His name was released for publication yesterday by the Beersheba Magistrates Court. The police representative told the court Ohayon has confessed to the murder and has participated in a reconstruction of the crime.

TA educators hope school to start on time

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Municipal education officials expressed the hope yesterday that a threatened teachers strike will be averted and the school year will open on schedule on September 2. If there is a long strike, the officials told a press conference, they will arrange activities for the children.

(The Histadrut Teachers Union and the Secondary School Teachers Association have warned that they will not open the school year as scheduled unless teachers receive the parity bonus that other civil servants received recently.)

In preparing for the school year, the news conference was told, City Hall has invested an unprecedented

\$5.5 million in renovation, maintenance, painting and other projects to improve the physical plant.

The net education budget, not including debt service and the municipality's contributions to higher education, is a little less than IS7 billion. Tel Aviv has about 60,000 children in 335 kindergartens and schools.

Dr. Haim Bassok, head of the Municipal Education Department, said that more than half the school children will use computers in some aspect of their education.

Some will use computers to practice arithmetic skills, others to develop reading comprehension or learn English, while others will learn

computer languages and programming, he said.

Dr. Shimon Shoshany, director of educational administration, said Tel Aviv wants to have the best educational services in the country and the use of computers is one way of attaining this goal.

The municipality is opening a new school for the arts. Some of the parents threaten a strike or court action because they are being asked to pay for the special art instruction that is not included in the normal curriculum. (The maximum parents would have to pay is IS216,000 a year, but the amount in fact depends on the family's income, and can be as low as IS24,000 a year.)

Call for support for Golan Druse

By LEA LEVAVI
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Israeli government and people should stand behind the 200 Druse families in the Golan Heights who are being ostracized because they are Israeli citizens. Druse Zionists from Israel and the Golan urged at a news conference yesterday.

"If the government wants them to give back their citizenship, it should say so," Yusef Nasser e-Din, chairman of the Druse Zionist Organization in Israel, said. "And if not, if they want the Druse on the Golan Heights to be Israeli citizens, then they shouldn't throw them to the wolves."

He also wanted to know why the Association for Human Rights in Israel, which is usually so sensitive to

any threat to the rights of Israeli Jews or Arabs, is silent about the Golan Druse. He said these 200 families are boycotted not only religiously, but also economically.

Salman Abu Saleh, head of the organization in the Golan Heights, said his insurance office was destroyed by a bomb and the boycott imposed by religious leaders required all his clients to cancel their insurance policies with him and prevents him from obtaining new clients. His fields were burned and a bomb was planted in his home that might have killed him, his wife and his eleven children if it had gone off, he said.

All the speakers emphasized that there is no religious basis for the boycott and that it is motivated by

personal and political considerations.

"When the religious leaders in the Golan Heights told us that Sheikh Amin Tarif (the spiritual leader of the Druse in Israel) supported the boycott, we went to him and asked him if there is a religious reason why we should not be Israeli citizens," Salman Abu Saleh said. "He told us the document was a forgery and that there was no religious deterrent to our being Israelis."

Sheikh Zaki Zaher, a Druse clergyman from Isfiya, said the only basis for a religious boycott is a contravention of the essence of the Druse religion, which is not the case here. "Why didn't anyone ever boycott Druse who have American or Venezuelan citizenship?" he challenged.

Eilat booms as tourists come aflocking

By LIORA MOREL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

EILAT. — Thousands of people are braving the heat and descending on this southern port city for their annual vacations.

Mayor Rafi Hochman told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that hotels and tourist rooms in town are fully booked. "There is no damage to the public facilities or beaches," he noted, "because most of the people don't camp out on the beaches due to the heat and prefer to be indoors. Usually, when masses of people come, they take over the sand and the grass and destroy a lot."

Tourism Minister Avraham Shari, who ended a two-day visit here yesterday afternoon, said that he was pleased to see so many people visiting the town.

Although he said that the city is not yet clean enough to be a first-class tourist resort of international standing, he was optimistic about the town's potential.

Itim adds: Sharir received a letter on Sunday from Yuval Cohen, director of the Interior Ministry's environmental quality unit, informing him that the Gulf of Eilat was free of pollution as a result of intensive efforts to disperse last week's oil spill.

Ne'eman: Up GNP to maintain security

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The defence budget can be cut by only one or two per cent at most, so Israel must maintain its security standards by raising its gross national product.

This was stated yesterday by Minister of Science and Development Yuval Ne'eman at the inaugural session of the International Colloquium for Military History at Tel Aviv University.

Ne'eman observed that war threats did not necessarily impede a country's cultural development. "People say that we will become a Sparta of the Middle East if we concentrate on military matters. But

we do not necessarily have to do so, for Athens, while waging major wars with the Persians, was also leading in arts and philosophy at the same time," Ne'eman said.

The colloquium centres on the ways small nations operate in their struggle against big powers. Some 70 researchers from 25 countries are attending. They are to visit battlefields in Israel and attend a reception by President Chaim Herzog.

SPORTS. — A multi-purpose sports hall was dedicated Sunday in Sderot. It was built under the auspices of Project Renewal with money donated by Jews in Italy.

Injured boy to receive IS1.5m. from ministry

HAIFA (Itim). — The Defence Ministry agreed on Sunday to pay IS1.5 million compensation to a 14-year-old boy who was injured by an explosive device while playing in a deserted Israel Defence Forces camp six years ago.

The boy's parents charged the ministry with negligence for not fencing off the former camp, where explosives had been stored. In the Haifa District Court, the ministry maintained that the parents had been negligent in allowing the boy to play there in October 1978, when he was eight years old. The case was settled out of court between the two sides.

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National Unity Government — Now

TODAY, Tuesday, August 21, at 8 p.m.,

the man in the street will have his say.

Come to a

MASS MEETING

in Kikar Malchei Yisrael, Tel Aviv, to tell the leaders of the political parties that the people want and will support a

NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT

The time has come for the public, which is ready to put its faith in a unity government, to get out and say so. Our paramount need now is reconciliation, and for the big parties to join forces, to strengthen the country. Only non-political, non-party banding together of all sections of the public will convince the parties that, at this time of crisis, they must form a

UNITY GOVERNMENT

The meeting will be addressed by important public personalities.

Public opinion has force

— Let us stand together, and make our voice heard.

TELEM —

the Movement for Zionist Fulfillment, is organizing groups to stand guard during the Shamir-Peres talks, in support of a National Unity Government.

Volunteers and contributors should apply to the action headquarters.



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Iran parliament in disarray —three ministers appointed

TEHERAN (Reuters). — The Iranian parliament yesterday approved the nominations of three new ministers and allowed Prime Minister Mirhossein Mousavi to take over responsibility for the vacant Ministries of Defence and Education for two months.

The decision eased an embarrassing situation for Mousavi, who lost a quarter of his cabinet last week when parliament refused the ministers' votes of confidence.

Three replacements — for industries, culture and higher education and health — were approved with comfortable majorities, but only after some assembly members accused the government of rushing the nominations through.

Mousavi defended the new ministers against what he himself said were letters of criticism circulating among assembly members.

After five ministers were sacked last week, parliament speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani cancelled the summer recess, making it impossible for members, including mullahs, to make the annual Moslem pilgrimage to Mecca.

Two of the new ministers, Ali Reza Marandi at health and Gholamreza Shafiei at industries were previously deputy ministers and some parliament members wondered aloud why they had not helped their ministers to run the departments more efficiently.

During the confidence debate, all but a few ministers were heavily criticized for inefficiency, mismanagement and favouritism.

'Newsweek': Iraq will have chemical-weapons plant soon

NEW YORK (AP). — Iraq, with the assistance of West German technicians, is nearing completion of a huge plant capable of producing the deadly chemical tabun and possibly mustard gas, *Newsweek* magazine says in its August 27 issue.

Small portions of the plant may already be working, the magazine says, and the complex will be completely operational within several weeks.

Newsweek — quoting what it said were "highly placed foreign and U.S. sources" — said American officials once considered staging an air strike against the complex. The idea was abandoned, the magazine said, when U.S. officials realized that the plant is located too close to Baghdad, and an attack could release a lethal cloud of nerve gas and endanger the city's millions of inhabitants.

Iran is locked in a 47-month war with Iraq, and has accused its Gulf neighbour of using chemical weapons.

Excerpts of the *Newsweek* report were released on Sunday.

The huge complex is capable of producing tabun and mustard gas, according to the report. Tabun, a deadly nerve gas invented by Nazi Germany in 1936, causes diarrhea and convulsions before it kills.

Last December, the Iraqi government bought what was supposed to be a pesticide plant from a subsidiary of the West German-based scientific and technical supply firm Karl Kolb.

Newsweek reported, however, that its sources said the plant is designed for the production of chemical weapons.

The Kolb company has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

In March, the U.S. and Israel began pressuring West Germany to halt the Kolb sales to Iraq.

At the time of the complaints, Bonn said export laws prevented it from halting Kolb's exports. The West Germans also said the U.S. had no proof that Iraq was building a chemical weapons plant.

26 hanged in Tehran jail on drug charges

LONDON (Reuters). — Twenty-six "professional and international drug smugglers," including two women, were hanged in the courtyard of Tehran's Qasr prison at dawn yesterday, Tehran Radio reported.

The hanging followed verdicts handed out by anti-narcotics tribunals working under Tehran's Islamic revolutionary courts, the radio added.

Afrikaners back bans on mixed-race sex

PRETORIA (Reuters). — A large majority of South Africa's ruling Afrikaners back laws prohibiting sex across the colour line and, racially mixed marriages, according to a survey released yesterday.

But the poll by the Human Sciences Research Council showed that less than half of English-speaking whites favoured the restrictions.

The survey of 1,024 whites showed that 81 per cent of the Dutch-

descended Afrikaners approved of a section of the Immorality Act barring sex between whites and other races and 79 per cent backed the Mixed Marriages Act. But only 38 per cent of the traditionally more liberal English-speakers favoured the ban.

The ruling National Party is studying the possibility of repealing or amending the laws, central to the government's apartheid policy.

Moscow says Sakharov 'alive and well'

MOSCOW (Reuters). — Radio Moscow said yesterday that dissident Andrei Sakharov was alive and well and under medical care in Gorky, the city to which he was banished in 1980.

It was the first official Soviet word on Sakharov in more than two months.

The radio said the Nobel Peace prize laureate was "alive and well" in Gorky and receiving his full pension and medical care.

It did not elaborate except to say the physicist was sent to Gorky for

violating Article 70 of the Russian criminal code forbidding "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda."

The last official comment on Sakharov was during French President Francois Mitterrand's June visit when a Kremlin spokesman said he was alive and well.

Last month friends of Sakharov here got letters from his wife Yelena Bonner, saying he had ended a hunger strike begun in May but was being forcibly detained in a Gorky hospital.

Afghan shells kill 16 more in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP). — Sixteen more persons were reported killed when Afghan artillery units shelled Pakistani territory in a fresh wave of border violations, Pakistan said yesterday.

The new attack occurred in the same border area where 33 persons were slain in shelling over the past week, the authorities said. They identified the dead as 12 Afghans and four Pakistanis.

In a replay of events over the past

few days, the Afghan embassy's charge d'affaires in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and handed a letter strongly protesting the "unprovoked violation."

He was again asked to convey to the authorities in Kabul Pakistan's demand that the bombings and shelling of Pakistani territory be stopped, "failing which they would be entirely responsible for the consequences," an official announcement said.



Actress Elizabeth Taylor with members of the family of her late former husband, Richard Burton, in the little village of Pontrhydyfen in south Wales. She stayed overnight on Sunday at the home of Mrs. Hilka Owen, one of Burton's sisters. (UPI telephoto)

Manila troops on 'red alert' year after Aquino's slaying

MANILA (AP). — The Philippines' armed forces were put on "red alert" yesterday as 2,000 people walked with candles from the home of the widow of slain opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Opposition leaders predicted more than a million would join nationwide rallies on today's first anniversary of Aquino's still-unresolved assassination.

Customs officials, meanwhile, were holding an imported bronze statue of Aquino that supporters had planned to parade through Manila. They said duty taxes on the statue must be paid before they would release it.

The panel probing Aquino's death, which reopened its public hearings for the third time last week, questioned a soldier about blurred photographs purportedly showing a man coming up the airport service

stairway as Aquino was being led out of the plane. The government claims alleged Communist agent Rolando Galman killed Aquino before soldiers gunned down Galman.

Police and soldiers have been using tear gas, clubs and guns to break up recent demonstrations calling for the resignation of President Ferdinand Marcos, Aquino's arch-rival.

But the Supreme Court, in an unusual rejection of Marcos' government appeals, on Saturday approved plans for citywide marches in Manila and ordered police to keep their distance on the anniversary of the assassination.

Gen. Fabian Ver, armed forces chief, announced that all military and police would be on "red alert," meaning all leaves were cancelled and personnel would be on call for any emergency.

U.S. and Chinese navies plan close cooperation

PEKING (Reuters). — China and the U.S., both attempting to counter what they see as a Soviet naval challenge, appeared set yesterday for much closer liaison between their navies following talks here involving U.S. Navy Secretary John Lehman.

A U.S. Embassy spokesman said the discussions had laid the foundation for friendly relations and technical cooperation between the two navies, including exchange visits and talks between their staffs.

Lehman, who arrived here last Wednesday from Pakistan, began a tour of Chinese naval facilities after meetings with Chinese navy chief Admiral Liu Huaqing, Premier Zhao Ziyang and Defence Minister Zhang Aiping.

His trip underlines the much closer military links between the U.S. and China heralded by Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger's visit to Peking last September and Zhang's trip to Washington in June.

The embassy spokesman said Lehman would visit the Chinese ports of Dalian, Qingdao and Shanghai before returning to Washington next Saturday.

The Chinese navy has 360,000 men and 35 major surface combat ships. They are generally considered by western military experts to be outdated. Diplomats said that with increased oil exploration along its coast, China would like to boost its naval capability.

Belfast youths hurl rocks at police

BELFAST (AP). — Both Protestant and Roman Catholic youths, hurling petrol bombs and rocks, attacked police patrols in separate outbreaks of rioting early yesterday, the police reported.

The street disturbances erupted after a Sunday night lull in a week of violence in this sectarian-divided British province.

A spokesman for the Royal Ulster Constabulary said "dozens" of youths hurled petrol bombs at police when dismantling makeshift street barriers thrown up by protesters in Belfast's Protestant Shankill Road district. The police retaliated by firing plastic bullets, said the spokesman.

In East Belfast's Newtownards Road, another stronghold of Protestant militancy, some 150 youths

raced through a shopping centre, hurling stones and smashing windows, the spokesman said.

Catholic youths took to the streets in West Belfast and in Stabane, 22 kilometres from Northern Ireland's second city, Londonderry, the spokesman said.

Youths threw petrol bombs at police trucks escorting a fire engine to a burning building in West Belfast and stoned police patrols in Stabane, the spokesman said. Police retaliated in both cases with plastic bullets. There were no reports of injuries, the spokesman said.

DIVORCE. — A Taiwanese woman, 34, has sued for divorce because her husband named a dog after her, and she "couldn't stand my three children's calling the dog Ah-chao."

UN industry parley ends in North-South rift

VIENNA (Reuters). — A major UN conference on industrial development staggered to an end here early yesterday after failing to adopt key resolutions, because of deep political divisions between rich nations led by the U.S. and poor countries.

The conference of the UN Industrial Development Organization (Unido) closed in disharmony more than a day late, after the U.S. voted alone against what it called an inaccurate and biased final document.

Twelve states, including Britain, the German Federal Republic, Canada and Australia abstained and the rest, including the developing

countries and the communist bloc, voted in favour of the text summing up the world economic situation.

The 18-day conference, involving 139 countries, agreed on nine of 11 resolutions directly concerned with various aspects of fostering industrial development in Third World countries, including education, improving technology and use of energy for industrialisation.

But despite exhaustive sessions in Vienna's former imperial Hofburg Palace, delegates failed to reach a consensus on two key resolutions on finance and other development

'Pravda' deletes Honecker's defence of detente with Bonn

MOSCOW (Reuters). — The Soviet daily *Pravda* published a summary yesterday of an interview given by East German leader Erich Honecker in which he defended the development of closer links between East Berlin and Bonn.

The Communist Party newspaper devoted almost half a page to Honecker's comments to the East German press, but its selection focused on his tough criticism of U.S. missile deployments in Western Europe and his declarations of loyalty to Moscow.

In the original interview, published in *East Berlin* on Saturday, the East German leader defended his detente policies towards Bonn, saying better links between the two Germanys could improve the East-West atmosphere as a whole.

Pravda cut out this remark and his avowal that the best way to ensure West Germany's commitment to its

treaties with Soviet Bloc states was to maintain a dialogue with Bonn politicians.

Honecker has come under fire from Moscow for his commitment to improving ties with West Germany at a time when the Kremlin has adopted a hard-line posture towards the West following the arrival of the U.S. cruise and Pershing missiles.

Western diplomats said the publication of Honecker's remarks appeared to serve a dual purpose.

On the one hand, it showed that the Kremlin acknowledged Honecker's loyalty and could be intended to demonstrate to the public that there was not a major rift between East Berlin and Moscow.

On the other hand, it also underlined the present policy differences between the two allies by deleting the whole of Honecker's defence of his present approach towards West Germany.

Sacked Indian minister's supporters stone airport

NEW DELHI (Reuters). — Supporters of the sacked chief minister of India's Andhra Pradesh province stoned New Delhi airport buildings yesterday as violence and opposition to his dismissal spread.

India's 19 main opposition political parties held an emergency meeting and announced a "Save Democracy Day" on Saturday, when rallies are to be held to protest against the dismissal of chief minister N.T. Rama Rao.

They also discussed plans for a general strike later this month.

The opposition leaders said in a statement that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was trying to impose dynastic rule by her family.

In Andhra Pradesh, India's fifth largest state, 46 trains were cancelled, including all suburban services in the state capital Hyderabad, because of sabotage. During protests since Rama Rao was sacked last

Wednesday, 22 persons have died and nearly 50 have been injured.

The political drama took a new twist yesterday when Gandhi was accused of deliberately delaying a plane carrying Rama Rao and a train carrying 160 of his state parliamentarians to a showdown meeting with Indian President Zail Singh.

The meeting was postponed until today because of the late arrival of the plane and train from Hyderabad.

Rama Rao, who returned last week from open-heart surgery in the U.S., planned to use a wheelchair to lead the parliamentarians in a demonstration of his majority in the 295-seat state legislature.

State Governor Ram Lal, a Gandhi appointee, dismissed Rama Rao, saying the ex-film star had lost his majority after defections from his Telugu Desam (Land of the Telugu) Party.

Four leading Liberians held for security reasons

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP). — Four leading Liberians, including two military members of the ruling Interim National Assembly and an academic who founded a new party, have been arrested "for security reasons," officials said.

Sunday's announcement came hours after Liberian leader Samuel Doe abruptly cut short a European tour and flew home after hundreds of pamphlets were distributed in his country predicting a "fake coup" was imminent. Officials later denied the claims.

A statement by Doe's office said assembly members Col. Larry Boreth and Col. Jerry Jorjwey were arrested along with university professor Amos Sawyer and civilian John Klay Kieh.

Doe, a former army master sergeant who seized power in a 1980 military coup, now heads the Interim

National Assembly set up a month ago to lead the country back to civilian rule in January 1986 after scheduled end-of-the-year elections.

Sawyer, who helped draw up Liberia's new civilian constitution, last week formed the Liberian People's Party to oppose Doe's National Democratic Party of Liberia in the elections.

Boreth and Jorjwey were both members of Doe's military government, the People's Redemption Council, which he dissolved to form a new assembly comprised of military and civilian politicians.

Boreth, formerly a Liberian deputy commander, was arrested in 1982 after an African medicine man from neighbouring Sierra Leone claimed Boreth had hired him to kill Doe or drive him insane through spiritual means. But Doe later pardoned Boreth.

U.S., Soviet scientists discuss nuclear war

ERICE, Sicily (Reuters). — Despite the political chill between East and West, top-level scientists from the U.S. and the Soviet Union got together yesterday for a four-day convention on the consequences of nuclear war.

Professor Antonino Zichichi, director of the Ettore Majorana scientific institute, which is host to the convention, said that the consequences of a global nuclear war would be far worse than could have been envisaged three or four years ago.

Describing the "nuclear winter" of climatic changes and other environmental disruptions which would follow a series of nuclear explosions, he said that until now it had only been possible to simulate and evaluate the effects of nuclear

explosions individually instead of collectively.

"Above all we must convince, by serious and intelligent argument, the scientists of both (the U.S. and the Soviet Union) that only peace can guarantee humanity a future," Zichichi said.

Uganda: Massacre reports 'exaggerated'

NEW YORK (AP). — A spokesman for the Ugandan government disputed U.S. government reports on widespread massacres in the African nation in yesterday's *New York Times*, but said 15,000 people have died in political and tribal violence since President Milton Obote came to power more than three years ago.

The statement, by Information Minister David Anyoti in Kampala, Uganda, was the first official Ugandan estimate on the extent of the reported killings. Earlier this month, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliot Abrams said that more than 100,000 Ugandans may have been killed by the military or died of starvation as a result of army policies.

In London on Sunday, the weekly *Observer* quoted an Ugandan opposition leader as saying that the death total was nearer 300,000.

The poorer states had pressed for the account of the world economy to highlight what they regard as the adverse effects of protectionism and high interest rates.

The U.S. dismissed this as a political ploy to apportion blame for underdevelopment.

Polisario rebels say Moroccan soldiers killed

PARIS (Reuters). — Guerrillas of the Polisario Front, which is fighting Moroccan rule of the Western Sahara, said here yesterday they had killed 33 Moroccan soldiers during the past 10 days.

A statement issued by the information ministry of the self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) said 18 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 31 injured in Polisario attacks in the 'Zak region, 400 kilometres south of Marrakesh.

In a separate attack last Thursday, Polisario guerrillas raided a Moroccan blockhouse in the Ouakozj Mountains, killing 15 soldiers and wounding 25 others, the statement said.

Sports

Lack of depth in competition at Moscow

MOSCOW (AP). — East German and Soviet swimmers, the outstanding favourites at the Friendship 84 games here took it easy during qualifying heats for five finals yesterday.

Times did not approach the marks set at the Los Angeles Olympics in the morning session, with freestyle world record holder Kristin Otto of East Germany apparently saving herself in the 200-metre event for a world record attempt in the finals.

Lute Geweniger, the breaststroke specialist from East Germany also held back, finishing only second in her heat to assure her a berth in the finals.

The competition lacked depth in some events. Organizers beefed up the starting fields with swimmers who were never in contention.

Some finished more than one minute behind the winners, and Syrian Mualla Firas was even lapped in the men's 400-metre individual medley.

In the men's 4 X 200 metres freestyle relay, only four teams went into the qualifying heat with each being assured a place in the finals.

Of 53 starters in the morning events only seven — four from Austria and three from India — did not come from East-Bloc countries or other nations allied with the Soviet Union.

On Sunday, however, three cyclists set world indoor records and three swimmers beat medal-winning times at the Los Angeles Olympics.

Bernad Dierckx of East Germany set a new world record of 4:36.47, qualifying for the quarter-finals of the 4,000-metre individual cycling pursuit and in the 1,000-metre. Elita Salzman of the Soviet Union set a new world mark of 1:08.24, beating her previous best of 1:09.07.

Navratilova wins new Jersey classic

MAHWAH, New Jersey (Reuters). — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova scored her 48th straight singles victory yesterday in a three-set final of a \$150,000 tennis classic here.

Navratilova scored a service break in the final game for a 6-4, 4-6, 7-3 victory over second-seeded American Pam Shriver in the "United Jersey Bank classic."

The world's number one women's player picked up \$27,500 in her first tune-up before defending her U.S. Open title. Shriver won \$14,000.

Navratilova, who has a 52-1 record this year and has not lost since her final-round match in California in January to Hana Mandlikova, has now won nine tournaments in a row.

The 27-year-old Czechoslovak-born player, now a resident of Fort Worth, Texas, has been on a 5-1 lead in the third set and appeared in complete command.

Shriver, who has won only three of 22 matches with Navratilova, made a game rally to pull back a 5-6 tie. She fought off two match points in the eighth game, one with an ace.

Navratilova served a backhand volley which forced a double fault. Shriver had gained a 30-40 point lead.

Shriver, ranked fourth in the world, jumped to a 30-40 lead in the 12th game but Navratilova won the next four points.

A backhand serve return slipped under Shriver's racket and Navratilova had the victory.

Trevino drives to his second PGA golf title

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama (Reuters). — Lee Trevino swept aside his challengers yesterday to win the 66th PGA golf championship by four strokes.

The 44-year-old Mexican-American, who cannot practise because of a bad back, notched his second PGA title and his first victory in three years with a dazzling three-under-par 69 and a total of 273.

Gary Player of South Africa and Lanny Wadkins, Trevino's playing partners and also former PGA champions, finished tied for second place at 11-under-par 277.

Trevino, known as "the merry Mex" because of his quick-witted bantering on and off the course, kissed his putter and bowed to the gallery as he holed a birdie putt of 15 feet at the final hole.

"I'll be 45 years old in December and I'm not supposed to beat these young kids, but I got them this week," he said after being presented with his trophy.

Trevino's 15-under total of 276 was worth \$125,000.

Lewis, Cram differ over Los Angeles

BUDAPEST (AP). — American Olympic great Carl Lewis yesterday praised the Los Angeles Olympics as probably the "most successful" ever.

But silver medalist Steve Cram of Britain said they have become too cumbersome.

"I feel good about these Olympics," said Lewis, speaking to reporters before the start of an international track and field event pitting Olympic stars against some Soviet bloc greats forced to stay away from Los Angeles.

Cram, who won silver over 1,500 metres, called for fewer events. "We've just got to streamline things a little bit," he said.

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Focus

Speaking to the Sandinistas

The Post's Walter Ruby accompanies a delegation to Nicaragua to gauge attitudes towards Jews and Israel.

'There is a strong desire to return the synagogue to the Jewish community'



Sandinista guerrillas during the rebellion against the Somoza regime.

(Camera Press)

IF THE Labour Party succeeds in forming a government, there is "some prospect" that diplomatic relations between Israel and Nicaragua could be restored, Sergio Ramirez Mercado, a member of Nicaragua's three-man ruling junta told a group of visiting U.S. Jews.

Ramirez also told the 10-member delegation from the New Jewish Agenda (NJA), a "progressive" Jewish organization concerned with human rights, that "Nicaragua recognizes Israel's right to exist as a sovereign state, just as we recognize the right of the Palestinian people to a sovereign territory. Neither the people nor the government of Nicaragua is anti-Semitic."

The meeting with Ramirez was the highlight of a five-day mission by NJA to Managua to investigate charges by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) and by the Reagan administration that the Sandinista government has engaged in anti-Semitic actions against Nicaragua's small Jewish community.

At the end of its visit, the delegation issued a statement concluding that it had found no evidence of an "official policy" of anti-Semitism in Nicaragua.

"After intensive discussions with leading figures of the Sandinista government, opposition leaders, religious leaders, and local human rights organizations, we believe there is no policy of anti-Semitism or bias on the part of any official body," said the statement.

"Moreover, it was made abundantly clear to us, and confirmed by leaders of the Sandinista government, that Nicaragua welcomes Jewish participation...in the reconstruction of a pluralistic society."

The statement added: "We make a special plea to our own government to desist from the escalation of violence and to seek out ways of creative dialogue so that a just and lasting democratic way of life can be secured in the nations of Central America."

RESPONDING to a question on the restoration of relations between Israel and Nicaragua, severed by the Sandinista government in protest at the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre, Ramirez stated: "That would have to be based on an initiative taken by both sides, and would have to go beyond the question of one or another government taking power in Israel. However, if Shimon Peres can consolidate political power in Israel...this could possibly open some doors."

Ramirez, however, qualified his remarks: "Things do not seem to look very bright for Peres at the moment...and these made the mistaken assertion that the Labour Party was in power in Israel in the last days of the Somoza regime (July 1979) when Israel tried to send a shipload of arms and ammunition to Somoza - an action which was stopped only because of pressure from the Carter administration."

Informing that the Likud was in power in 1979, Ramirez acknowledged his error, but remarked, "Nevertheless, there was a historical relationship (between the Israel Labour Party and Somoza) - a regard of support for many years."

But, Ramirez reiterated, "We do believe that the prospect of an incoming Labour Party government in Israel could be significant."

KNOW you have been sick for six weeks and I very much wish you a speedy recovery. If you were a member of Kupat Holim, I would have brought you to the nearest clinic where I am sure the finest medical care would be used in your treatment. But, dear phone, you are not human, although the sounds that issue from you do sound like the cries of a wounded servant. So before you accuse me of not being concerned for your welfare, let me tell you what I have done to bring the best professional care in the country to diagnose and cure your pain and suffering.

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The supervisor brought out your record and severely reprimanded me for your unhappy state because our tree branches were interfering with your lines outside our house. The telephone company could not accept any responsibility until this untimely neglect on our part was corrected. At that time they would be happy to re-examine your case. (The supervisor had no idea why we had not been informed of this failure on our part.)

I HURRIEDLY called from my office to the nearest tree surgeon to

EARLIER, Nicaraguan Deputy Minister Nora Astorga told the NJA delegation: "We have a lot of problems with the U.S. government, but we make a clear distinction between the people and government of the U.S., and are therefore trying to normalize relations. We make the same distinction vis-a-vis the people of Israel."

"We accept the existence of the State of Israel, and have nothing against that state. The problem has been the presence of Israel in Central America."

Astorga, whose recent nomination as ambassador to the U.S. was rejected by the Reagan administration because of her role in the assassination of a top Somoza general linked to the CIA, added: "Maybe now, with the new government coming to power in Israel, there can be a change in the bad relations that have existed between Nicaragua and Israel in recent years."

Added Ramirez, who is the vice-presidential candidate of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) on a ticket together with presidential candidate Daniel Ortega in the November 4 presidential elections in Nicaragua: "The supposed persecution by Nicaragua of its Jewish community must be seen in a more general context of charges by the U.S. against Nicaragua, including false allegations that we have committed genocide against the Miskito Indians; that we are persecuting the (Catholic) Church, and that we are involved in drug trafficking. This is part of a general campaign to distort the ethics of the revolution."

NOTING THAT there are a number of people of Jewish ancestry active in the Sandinista government, including Minister of Tourism Herty Leites, Ramirez said: "We maintain steadfastly that there has been no discrimination against members of

the Jewish community.

"What did occur was that there were some Jews here with close ties to the Somoza dictatorship. Their property was expropriated because of these ties, and not because of their racial and religious identity. Non-Jews linked to Somoza also had property confiscated."

Ramirez noted, however, that "Only three or four" of the 50-odd Jews who fled Nicaragua during and after the 1979 revolution were considered by the government to be collaborators with Somoza (according to a document received by the ADL from the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, only two Jews are considered collaborators) and that the other Jewish exiles will face no charges if they return to Nicaragua.

Asked if these Jews would be eligible to have their property returned if they come back, or to receive compensation if they do not return, Ramirez said: "We can guarantee that the Ministry of Justice is ready to reopen all the cases that the Jewish community might want to present."

"We cannot promise that property will be re-established, but we will look into this question on a case-by-case basis." (Most of the Nicaraguan Jews who fled from Managua to Miami, Costa Rica and other locations in 1979-80 held their property in Nicaragua under a Sandinista law that allows the state to expropriate the possessions of those leaving the country for more than six months without establishing a clear intention to return.)

ON THE SUBJECT of the former Managua synagogue, which ceased to function in 1979 after most of the country's Jews fled and which has been occupied in recent years by the Sandinista Children's Association, Ramirez said: "There is a strong desire on the part of the government

to return the synagogue to the Jewish community."

"We are also willing to provide ample provision for the building of a new synagogue, if the community desires." (The Sandinista government has stated its willingness over the last year to return the synagogue, but notes that none of the handful of Jews left in Managua have agreed to accept responsibility for it. The government has also expressed willingness to return the synagogue to the Nicaraguan Jewish exile community in Miami, as long as the community has one active member in Managua who will accept responsibility. The Nicaraguan Jews in Miami say they have not yet reached a decision in the issue.)

Ramirez termed "immoral" what he described as "an appeal by the Reagan administration to (American) Jewry to get them to support its Central American policies by saying that we are anti-Semitic."

"There is no religious or racial persecution in Nicaragua. We have an open-door policy with regard to any or all Jews of good faith who want to come and live here and help us with our problems."

"We would accept technicians and scientists, as well as people who want to come here to engage in private enterprise. We would give guarantees to these people."

ASKED at the end of the NJA's visit whether he accepted the Nicaraguan government's claims that there is no anti-Semitism in the country, president of the NJA and head of the delegation Rabbi Gerald Serotta said: "It is clear that the majority of Nicaraguan Jews left the country during and after the revolution because of fears resulting from anti-Israel propaganda and the presence of the PLO here. And I certainly understand those fears. However, I

am convinced that there is no anti-Semitism in Nicaragua today."

The charge of Nicaraguan anti-Semitism has been laid to rest, he said, since the Nicaraguan leaders have expressed a willingness for diplomatic relations with Israel and are prepared to recognize Israel's sovereign existence. "They are very angry about Israel's role in Central America, but they are still open to relations."

Serotta noted that even Nicaraguans highly critical of the Sandinistas' human rights record, such as Marta Patricia Baltodano, director of the Permanent Human Rights Commission, had denied the existence of a Nicaraguan government policy of anti-Semitism.

"I believe that the visit of this delegation has helped the Nicaraguans to understand that Jews are a people who have also experienced tremendous suffering," she said.

Jocelyn Wurzburg, of Memphis, Tennessee, another member of the delegation, commented: "I leave satisfied that there is no institutional persecution of Jews here. I did find a tremendous lack of knowledge among Nicaraguans about Judaism and Jews, and it saddens me that the Jewish community here has all but evaporated."

Wurzburg, a long-time supporter of the United Jewish Appeal and other pro-Israel causes, remarked: "I am hurt that Israel has found it necessary to support a position of immorality in Central America, which I believe is a far cry from prophetic Judaism. I see my role as telling my beloved Israel how I feel about its role in supporting Somoza and other dictatorships in this area."

MARWAN TAHBUB, the officially accredited ambassador of the Palestine Liberation Organization to Nicaragua, refused to respond directly in an interview to questions

Tahbub characterized the relationship between the Sandinista government and the PLO as "a relationship of revolutionary solidarity."

Asked about reports that the PLO has provided military training for the Nicaraguans and is presently training Nicaraguan pilots, Tahbub said: "That is untrue. In fact, our relationship is more symbolic than anything else."

"As a matter of principle we would like to help the Nicaraguans, but we ourselves have no country in which to provide any assistance. To say that the Palestinians are working with Nicaragua to create a threat to the U.S. is a form of surrealism."

Pressed on whether the PLO had given specific aid to Nicaragua, Tahbub said: "Actually the aid from the PLO to Nicaragua is so small I am ashamed to mention it. The last help we gave them was an offer of \$35,000 to purchase engineering equipment for a topographical study."

Asked about allegations that the arrival of PLO personnel in Managua in 1979 had led to increased anti-Jewish feeling which caused the Jews to flee, Tahbub responded:

"Actually, we have a very pragmatic reason for discouraging the rise of significant anti-Semitism in Nicaragua or anywhere else. If there is a rise of anti-Semitism, many Jews will pack their bags and go to Israel, where they occupy Palestinian houses. If the Jews do not go to Israel, they are likely to go to the U.S., where they, in fact, are in an even stronger position to help Israel."

"It is because of this selfish principle that we make a strong effort to stop anti-Semitism all over the world."

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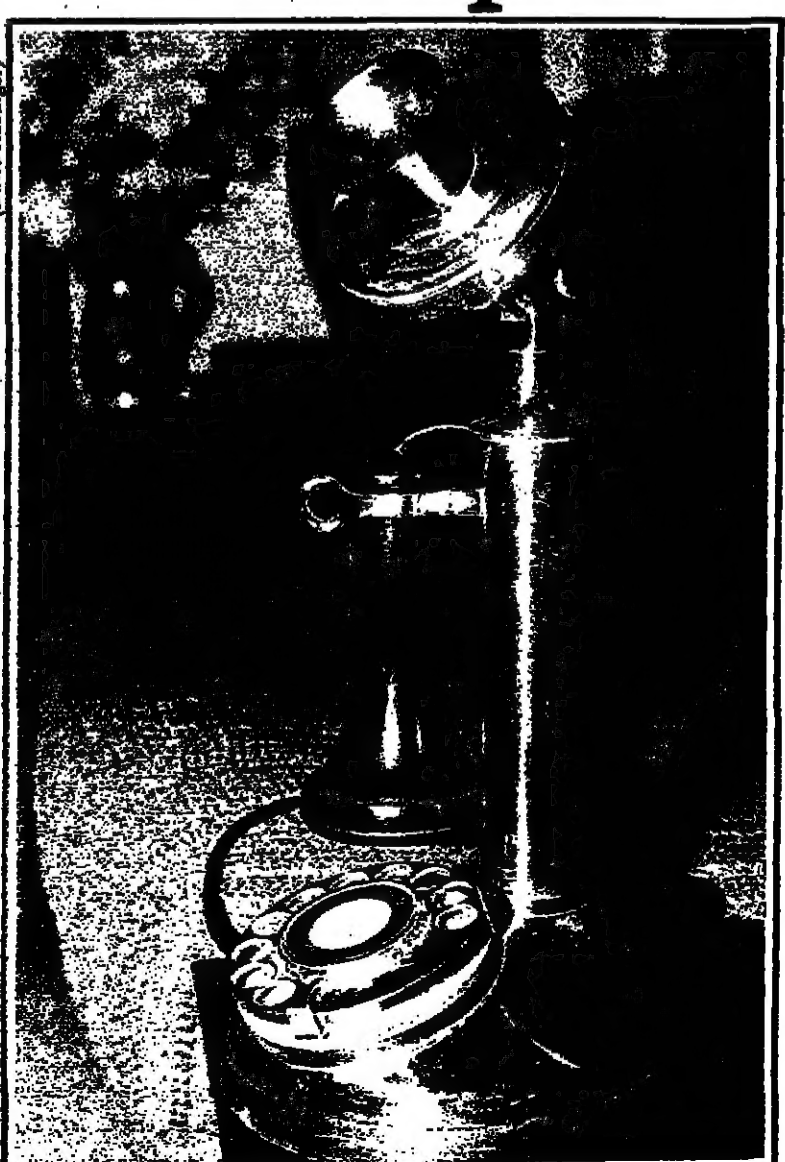
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examine and correct this condition. Returning home, cursing all ugly trees with branches reaching skyward to trouble the works of man, I found that there were no telephone lines above or even on the horizon, because a thoughtful telephone company had installed them in an under-

16. When the voice on 16 heard of this terrible mistake, he suggested that I call for a specialist - the Unit for Public Complaints - at 890278.

My first attempts were less than successful; a recording announced that this number was not in service. Knowing that the telephone company must pay its own bills, I ignored this message and redialed for two hours to find the number responding as not in service, busy, and not answering in 15 minute cycles. Finally a very courteous Ilana answered and listened sympathetically to my problems. Like any good diagnostician, she said she would have to examine your past record and would call me back. True to her word, she called the next day with both good news and bad news. The bad news was that your past records could not be found and the good news was that this was a sign that the records were in the hands of a specialist team who would surely operate within a week. If you were then still unwell, please phone her.

The week went slowly by with you alternating between howls of pain and periods of total depression when you wouldn't say anything. On the permitted magic day, August 7, I tried without success to contact Ilana and went home a broken man. But the next day your case took a turn for the better when Ilana contacted me and calmed me with the assurance of her personal intervention.

On August 10, she contacted my assistant with the troubling diagnosis that the case was more serious than she had thought because your "cablim" were involved and would I please contact her. Realizing the gravity of your case and after trying unsuccessfully to recontact Ilana, I felt that the time had come for a personal consultation on your condition with the Unit for Public Complaints.

LOCATING THEIR offices in a large downtown building, (no mean feat since 16 said that he was not allowed to give out its address) I found myself before the sign: "Unit for Public Complaints - This Unit does not receive the Public. Please contact at POB - or telephone 890278."

Bravely ignoring the sign because Ilana had personally asked me to contact her, I entered a two-room suite with an empty outer office with three phones, all of them off their hooks. I noted the sign "Manager" outside the inner sanctum, knocked and entered and was informed by its sole occupant that Ilana was out sending a telegram.

When I asked his advice, he courteously informed me that he would shortly be free to help. After a few minutes I was invited back into the inner sanctum to describe your condition. The manager immediately went to a complex filing system consisting of what appeared to be a used shoe box and triumphantly extracted your record. Examining it, he sadly informed me that a serious condition like "cablim" required a minimum of three weeks from my first report of August 1 and he assured me that on August 21 the full weight of his unit would be brought to bear on the operating team.

When I hesitantly stated that there had to be earlier records of my public complaint, he returned to the shoe box and found an earlier complaint dated July 26 which meant that the weight of his unit would be brought to bear on August 16.

I apologized for breaking into his sealed unit but explained that I had been asked to contact Ilana and took that as an invitation to enter the unit when I could not reach her by phone. He told me that he was alone in the office and needed to concentrate on servicing public complaints and that as soon as I left, he would open line 890278 in order to receive more public complaints.

Dear phone, I know that August 16 has come and gone and you are still in a woeful state. When we meet on the street, all our friends and children ask about your condition and send their wishes for a speedy recovery. I am writing this letter with one hand while I am trying with the other to re-dial the Unit for Public Complaints.

Your obedient servant,
Prof. Norman Rosenberg,
Faculty of Engineering,
Tel Aviv University
Telephone number available on request but it won't help.

Money Matters

Tuesday, August 21, 1984 The Jerusalem Post Page Seven

Share volume hits record low

TEL AVIV. The share market continues to exhibit two mutually exclusive trends. Volume continues to rise up, and yesterday's "effort" in this respect was a record low of 152,935 million, or about \$950,000, beating the old low mark set last week. The degree of interest in the market, therefore, remains close to zero.

On the other hand, the direction of prices is still firmly upward, although yesterday was not nearly as strong as the previous two sessions. The advance/decline ratio fell to just over 2:1, and the number of sharp increases was also much reduced.

These two trends cannot co-exist for long. Either the lack of interest will snuff out this nascent rally, as it has every other attempt to breathe life into the market for the last five months, or, if the traders can continue to push prices up as they have for the past week, the circle of investors will eventually widen, and new money will enter the market.

Obviously, the ongoing political maneuverings will have a significant effect on the mood. It should be noted, though, that one of the most heartening features of the market recently has been its ability to shrug off bad news, and react positively to good news, whether at the company or national level.

Another development which is worthy of note is that, for the first time in a long time, the proportion of the total share volume taken by the bank shares covered by the "arrangement" has fallen to less than half. Indeed, yesterday it was barely more than one-third, at \$107m. Coupled with the lack of interest in the regular bond market, the shriveling of volume in the "arrangement" bank quasi-bonds is another sign of a new mood coming to the fore in the capital market as a whole.

Bonds were once again very quiet yesterday, with price moves in both directions leaving the index only slightly up on the day. The volume was low here, too, at just below 150,000, so that total turnovers on the exchange were less than \$3m.

Tel Aviv Stock Exchange

By PINHAS LANDAU

Announcements:

Union Bank of Israel, the largest subsidiary of Bank Leumi, published its half-yearly results yesterday. The bank made a net profit, after adjustment to inflation, of 151,566m, compared to the full-year loss for 1983 of 151,603m. (In June 1984 shekels). This is, therefore, a continuation of the trend suggested by the Discount results last week, whereby the huge 1983 losses are giving way to minuscule profits this year, but profits nonetheless.

The adjusted balance sheet of the bank grew by nearly 9 per cent in the first half of this year, and the equity rose by 2.75 per cent in real terms. The rate of return on equity was thus 5.36 per cent on an annualized basis — a level the bigger banks will be happy to reach this year.

Securities insurance agency ended the 1983-4 year with an adjusted profit of 153,7m, significantly more than the equivalent figure of 151m, achieved in 1982/3. The company announced that the 150 per cent bonus shares already distributed will be the final dividend for the year.

Electronics Corporation of Israel, owned by Clal Industries to the tune of almost 60 per cent, announced its results for the second quarter (and first half of 1984). Sales rose 81 per cent in the first six months of 1984, to reach \$8,557m, compared to \$4,714m in the first half of 1983. Gross profits grew by 135 per cent to \$4,816m, and net profit swelled to \$1,345m, this year, against only \$316,000 last year, a rise of 326 per cent.

In the second quarter, sales rose by 74 per cent to \$4,548m, gross profits were up by 130 per cent to \$2,685m, and net profits, at \$776,000, were 32 times the amount in the second quarter of 1983.

Rogovin Construction and De-

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices

General Share Index	292.93	+0.74%
Non-bank Index	220.63	+0.95%
Arrangement	344.94	+0.62%
Bank Index Industrials	336.92	+0.91%
Boyd Index	266.01	+0.41%

Turnovers

Shares	152,935	Sm.
Bonds	15,996	2m.
Totals	168,931	
Advances	219	
Declines	102	

of which 5% +	51	n.c.
of which 5% -	22	n.c.
"Buyers only"	18	
"Sellers only"	5	

Bond market trends

4% fully-linked:	Mixed
3% fully-linked:	Mixed 1-3%
80% linked:	Mixed to 1%
90% linked:	Mostly stable
Double-option:	Mixed to 1-3%
Dollar-linked:	Mixed to 3%

Most Active Shares

Hapoalim	7505	1522 Sm.	+100
IDB	10960	1520.7m.	n.c.
Leumi	4700	1517 Sm.	n.c.

Sharpest Moves

Rogovin op.	23	+16	+228.4%
Tip-top op.	61.5	+12.5	+25.5%
Galei Zohar ISS	965	+180	+22.9%
Teta op.	22	-6	-21.4%

Development announced that it managed

a real profit of 151,566m, in the year ending March 31, 1984. This is only 41 per cent of the previous year's profit of 45.3m, on an equivalent basis, but the company sees this as an achievement in light of the slump in the building industry generally.

Following these positive results, the shares and option of Rogovin were all marked "buyers only" yesterday. The Rogovin option, which is due to expire in another few days, had fallen as low as 7, and yesterday's development saw its price zoom to 23 — an amazing 228 per cent increase in one day, and a real collector's item.

Clal Israel notified the exchange that it is changing the price at which it is offering new shares by way of "rights" to its existing shareholders from 585, as originally published, to 415.

Israelis flooding into UK

Jerusalem Post Correspondent LONDON. — Britain is experiencing a massive influx of tourists from Israel, with one estimate putting the number arriving each week at between 10,000 and 12,000.

Willie Wilder, managing director of V.I.P. Travel, said, "It's the busiest year I've known and they are spending money like water. They are coming with dollars which they convert into sterling."

Fedeila Bishop, of Reception International, confirmed the picture. "There was a big increase in 1983

and even more this year. They are coming for up to three weeks, and despite the economic situation at home they come back to their hotels at night laden with Marks and Spencer bags full of goods.

"They no longer seem to regard a holiday abroad as a luxury but, as part of their normal way of life. They tell me that they come to get away from the pressures at home."

British Tourist Authority figures show that last year just under 150,000 Israelis came here, a 16 per cent increase on 1982, and spent \$47 million (about £300 per person).

New managing director for Avraham Gindi Ltd.

Tai-Aluf (res.) Yoel Gorodish has recently been appointed managing director of Avraham Gindi Ltd. The company is engaged in the construction of hundreds of residential units, commercial areas and recreational sites in the centre of the country.

Gorodish, 46, a Jerusalemite, studied at Ets Haim yeshiva, and Tel Aviv University. He participated in the Sinai campaign, was an intelli-

gence officer during the Six Day War, and commanded an armoured unit in the Yom Kippur War.

He left the IDF 5 years ago and for 3 years was the manager of a private building firm in the North.

During the past 2 years he has been manager of the Hidar building firm, Tiberies, which deals in private and public construction, hotels, and tourist and commercial projects.

Bank of Israel exchange rates

Monday, August 20, 1984	IS	IS
U.S. dollar	309.61	265.18
British sterling	408.64	200.43
German mark	107.83	53.432
French franc	35.129	153.60
Dutch guilder	95.618	174.48
Swiss franc	128.99	128.28
Spanish peseta	37.157	332.99
Norwegian krona	37.438	188.77
Danish krone	29.554	798.79
Finland mark	51.290	49.540
Canadian dollar	237.90	261.62

Teshet's profits fly over \$1 million mark

TEL AVIV. — El Al's subsidiary, Teshet, last year made a net profit of \$1,187,000 compared with \$29,000 in 1982/3.

Most of the income derived from running hotels in Israel, a kosher catering service in New York and various travel agencies.

One of those agencies, Foreign Tours in New York, made an operational profit of \$310,000 compared with a loss of \$600,000 in 1982/3. El Al's spokesman reported.

Circulation on the up for 'New York, New York'

New York, New York, the only Hebrew guide to entertainment in the Big Apple, is becoming increasingly popular.

Its distribution doubled from 15,000 copies in the first edition to 30,000 in the second, and next month's issue is to be distributed in 40,000 copies.

The guide, which contains information on theatres, clubs, restaurants and music, is distributed free in New York and by El Al and Tower Air.

LONDON BANK RATES

August 20, 1984	prev.	close
Bank base rate	11	11
Call money	12	12
91 day treasury	10	10 1/4
3-months Interbank	10 1/4	10 1/4

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GREAT BRITAIN STERLING 1 406.4459 411.5173 402.8500 417.1600

GERMANY MARK 1 107.1497 108.4867 106.2000 109.9700

FRANCE FRANC 1 34.9081 35.3437 33.8000 35.8300

HOLLAND GUILDEN 1 94.9631 96.1480 94.1200 97.4700

SWITZERLAND FRANC 1 128.3071 129.9080 127.1700 131.6900

SWEDEN KRONA 1 36.9098 37.5704 36.1000 37.8800

NORWAY KRONA 1 37.2134 37.7177 36.4000 38.1900

DENMARK KRONA 1 29.3756 29.7422 28.7300 30.1500

FINLAND MARK 1 50.9615 51.9974 49.8500 52.3000

CANADA DOLLAR 1 236.0961 239.0420 232.1300 242.3300

AUSTRALIA DOLLAR 1 263.2222 266.5065 251.5000 272.5900

SOUTH AFRICA RAND 1 199.4240 202.1148 198.1800 213.4900

BELGIUM FRANC 1 53.1491 53.8323

AUSTRIA SCHILLING 10 152.5436 154.4470 151.0000 156.5600

ITALY LIRE 1000 175.6852 177.7713 164.5200 178.1800

JAPAN YEN 1000 127.6882 129.2612 126.5300 131.0300

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Commercial Banks

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Martinez	1360	471	n.c.
Martinez	390	528	n.c.

N. American	1853	31	+1.8
N. American	1415	21	+2.8
N. Amer. op	218	21	+2.0

Danot 1	283	b.o.i.	+1.3
Danot 2	74	667	n.c.
Danot 3	196	1057	+9

First Int'l	425	1057	+9
FIBI 0.5	343	425	+1.3

Commercial Banks

(part of "arrangement")

IDB	10960	188	n.c.
IDB B	11500	9	+4.0
IDB A	70500	1	+5.0

Discount B	14295	7	n.c.
Discount B	13999	29	n.c.
Discount B	1713	102	+1.8

Mizrahi B	4530	247	+1.0
Mizrahi B	4485	19	n.c.
Mizrahi B	2080	19	n.c.

Hapoalim B	9850	-	-1.5
Hapoalim B	7505	30	+1.0
Hapoalim B	7400	117	n.c.

Hapoalim B	28450	4	n.c.
General A	19250	30	+1.8
General A	456	-	-1.9

General A	18350	12	n.c.
General A	1360	37	n.c.
General A	4700	377	n.c.

Leumi B	6500	8	n.c.
Leumi B	1863	146	+1.0
Leumi B	1863	146	+1.0

Leumi B	6575	10	+5.5
Leumi B	3450	16	+2.0

Mortgage Banks

Adanim B	1081	5	n.c.
Adanim B	1279	1	n.c.
Adanim B	1280	20	+4.4

Adanim B	895	20	+4.4
Adanim B	422	400	+6
Adanim B	448	13	n.c.

Adanim B	808	90	+1.8
Adanim B	1300	3	-8
Adanim B	700	3	-8

Adanim B	1020	10	n.c.
Adanim B	901	8	n.c.
Adanim B	940	46	+1.0

Adanim B	940	46	+1.0
Adanim B	142	30	-2
Adanim B	162	30	-2

Adanim B	152	100	-1.2
Adanim B	79	404	-12
Adanim B	390	108	n.c.

Financial Institutions

Shilton B	83	432	-
Shilton B	1093	-	-
Shilton B	14500	-	-

Shilton B	28000	-	-
Shilton B	1121	10	-1
Shilton B	1123	10	-1

Shilton B	17000	1	n.c.
Shilton B	44501	-	-
Shilton B	41100	-	-

Shilton B	36225	-	-
Shilton B	220	34	+3
Shilton B	2202	34	+3

Shilton B	1400	12	+2
Shilton B	194	2	-2.0
Shilton B	2002	12	+2

Insurance

Arayeh	449	53	-1
Arayeh	307	50	+1.5
Arayeh	540	50	+1.5

Arayeh	349	b.o.i.	+1.6
Arayeh	150	43	+2
Arayeh	649	-	-

Arayeh	166	-	-
Arayeh	773	27	n.c.
Arayeh	120	286	n.c.

Arayeh	1180	155	n.c.
Arayeh	2000	3	-10.6
Arayeh	580	29	+5.3

Arayeh	1440	6	+4.3
Arayeh	1145	-	-
Arayeh	1542	-	-

Arayeh	281	12	n.c.
Arayeh	116	39	n.c.
Arayeh	2831	0.1	-149

Arayeh	630	75	n.c.
Arayeh	610	16	+12
Arayeh	198	170	+13

Trade & Services

Inter-Gamma	360	85	n.c.
Inter-Gamma	135	121	+3
Inter-Gamma	48	200	+4.1

Inter-Gamma	630	40	+1.3
Inter-Gamma	366	40	+1.3
Inter-Gamma	165	32	+5.1

THE JERUSALEM POST

Ari Rath
Editor and
Managing Director

Erwin Frankel
Editor

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The rules of the game

IT doesn't need an attorney-general to drive home the constitutional point that a cabinet minister may not at the same time serve as Speaker of the Knesset.

Any first-year student of political science, indeed any citizen possessed of a minimal feeling for the rudiments of parliamentary democracy would have been immediately aware of the challenge to the principle of the separation of powers inherent in Dr. Yosef Burg's concurrent filling of the two posts.

In Dr. Burg's case it might be possible to put down his constitutional obtuseness to the obstinacy of old age. In the case of the Likud and the other parties who joined it in foot-dragging on the decision to replace Dr. Burg in the chair it would seem that the problem is deep-seated disdain for the democratic rules of the game.

It was not always so. Mapai of the 1950's sought, with a large measure of success, to turn the Knesset into a rubber stamp of the government, which theoretically came into being and functioned at its behest.

It was then on the other side of the aisle, among the parties that later were to constitute the Likud, that the sensibilities for strict adherence to the parliamentary rules of the game developed.

Menachem Begin was the last of these Likud sticklers for parliamentary practice to leave the scene. He was preceded by Dr. Yohanan Bader of Herut and by Peretz Bernstein, S.Z. Abramov and Elimelech Rimalt of the Liberals. The party they left behind seems at times to have become a cabal of "dirty-trick-boys" determined to cast the interests of parliamentary independence to the winds whenever fleeting party advantage beckons.

In the past, the Knesset went on to elect its Speaker and to constitute its main elected bodies even before a new coalition cabinet was formed after elections. This was possible, while yet adhering to the precedent of the Speaker coming from the main government party, because it had always been clear which party was alone capable of forming and standing in the centre of such a coalition.

The present elections have returned such a finely balanced Knesset as to make that determination unclear. The fight in the ad hoc Knesset steering committee is around the psychological advantage, believed to inhere in the choice of Speaker, for either of the two main parties which are competing to head the next coalition government.

Breaking one electoral precedent, however, may provide just the opportunity needed for breaking another one in order to strike a blow, however minor, to free the Knesset from its image of rubber stamp.

Given the likelihood of closely tied elections in the future, too, this may well be the time to select a Speaker among the principles which guide the British House of Commons. It is specifically in a closely divided House that the Speaker should be chosen by secret ballot to serve as a fair and impartial guide of the separate arm of government that the Knesset should be.

Amendments to the Basic Law: the Knesset would be needed to deal with the implications of such a change, such as a Speaker's resignation from his party faction and his replacement by another candidate on his faction's list.

But a first step towards greater Knesset independence could well be the consequence of yesterday's decision by Mr. Abba Eban, as Speaker pro tem, to convene the Knesset for the election of a permanent Speaker before there is a clear decision on the identity of the next government coalition.

LEHI SPY

(Continued from Page One)

Fifty years ago this month, Neville Laski, then president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, went to the Colonial Office in secret with an offer to provide information and advice from "loyal British non-Zionists" as an alternative to the "wrong policies" pursued in and outside Palestine by "the wrong people." These were the "foreign born" and "internationally minded" Jewish Agency leaders such as Chaim Weizmann, Selig Brodetsky and Nahum Sokolow.

Laski also accused the Jewish Agency of "exploiting the German

situation for their own objects."

The Colonial Office decided to have nothing to do with this Anglo-Jewish "mole." According to Foreign Office documents, on which the revelation is based, the deputy permanent under-secretary at the Colonial Office felt that "it would be most dangerous to be drawn into secret discussions with the non-Zionists."

In 1939, Laski, under increasing criticism from the Zionist group within the board of deputies, resigned and was succeeded by Brodetsky, the first Zionist and foreign-born Jew to be its president.

SPEAKER ROW

(Continued from Page One)

Corfu argued yesterday at the committee (and on Koi Yisrael) that in every past Knesset, the Speaker was always a coalition nominee. The Steering Committee would be making a mistake, Corfu suggested, if it installed a permanent Speaker, who might eventually turn out to be from the opposition. That would prevent the Knesset from functioning smoothly and normally, he predicted.

Shahal countered that the Knesset, constitutionally speaking, should function independently of the government, and hence could choose its Speaker without reference to the nature of the government.

Meanwhile the initiative of President Chaim Herzog to call in Shahal yesterday morning and ask him to tell the committee of his concern at the "paralysis of the parliament" drew criticism from Corfu and from the Likud MK Ronnie Milo. Corfu said Herzog had no cause to blame the Knesset, and Milo said Herzog

should have conveyed his views to the committee through the Knesset Clerk and not through a political figure like Shahal.

Last night Shahal reacted to this criticism by welcoming Herzog's initiative as "a justified discharge of the presidential duty and a reflection of the sentiments of the public at large" at the Knesset's failure to convene.

Alignment MK Shlomo Hillel said last night that, if elected Speaker, he would make every effort to improve the standing and prestige of the house. Hillel, the Alignment candidate for the post, was interviewed on television's *Mabat* newsreel.

Hillel praised the president's efforts to improve the Knesset's standing and said the House had sunk low in public esteem during recent years. It was not respected by the country's youth, he suggested, adding that he had frequently heard of teachers telling their classes: "Behave yourselves, be quiet; it's not the Knesset here!"

FERRARO INCOME

(Continued from Page One)

Government figures just released in Washington showed the U.S. gross national product grew at an annual rate of 7.6 per cent in the last quarter, an indication that economic expansion for 1984 might be the strongest since the late 1940s. Inflation continued low at 3.2 per cent.

The Republican convention programme was to get rolling last night with the keynote speech by Treasurer Katherine Ortega and addresses by Senate majority leader Howard Baker Jr., U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and by Margaret Heckler, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Wolf Blitzer adds from Washington: Jewish leaders and other pro-Israel supporters were pleased by the Middle East plank in the party

platform. Last month's Democratic platform was more strongly pro-Israel in only one area - namely, Jerusalem. The Democratic platform recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and called for the transfer of the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv.

The Republican platform avoided any discussion of the embassy issue and called for Jerusalem to remain "undivided."

Still, Jewish Republicans were yesterday predicting that Reagan and Vice-President George Bush would do very well among the Jews against the Democratic ticket of Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro.

Last night, Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld of Queens, New York, was due to deliver the opening invocation at the Dallas convention.

Summertime assault

By YOSEF GOELL

THE MOST interesting development in Israel last week was not the beginning of the interminable party palavers on coalition-making but the descent of 300,000 Israelis, like a swarm of locusts, on the shores of Lake Kinneret.

Large numbers of Israeli holiday-makers have been making their way to the Kinneret, Israel's only lake resort area, for years now. But in the past, this usually took place during Pessah and Succot holidays, when the searing heat of Israel's summer, compounded by the deep, bowl-like nature of the Kinneret depression, had either not yet begun or was on the way out.

What was unusual this time was the sheer number - 300,000 on one weekend and through the better part of one week - and the fact that this mass migration occurred at the height of the August heat.

By all accounts, and the evidence produced on television, the horde left behind a disaster area, defecating in and defouling the hallowed Deganya military cemetery, trampling lawns and flower beds along the lake shore, and otherwise behaving as only hordes do.

This seasonal inundation of the Kinneret was a result of the fact that the country's Mediterranean beaches were already full and that even so-called moderately priced resort hotels in places like Safad - which reportedly was relatively empty despite its cool mountain temperatures - were beyond the financial means of most Israeli vacationers. They went camping around the Kinneret instead.

THERE IS a myth that has made the rounds in recent years that the majority of Israelis, during this period of Likud-induced false prosperity, go abroad for their summer vacations. The fact is that despite the large, and growing, number of Israelis who do travel abroad,

the majority have not yet done so even once. This has not been for lack of desire, but for lack of funds.

The purpose of these musings in the August heat is not to comment on the habits and finances of the Ugly and the Average Israelis - not necessarily overlapping categories - but to remark on what an overcrowded country we have become.

The phenomenon of 300,000 souls descending on the Kinneret is being repeated all the time in such popular watering holes as the Sabne and El Hammam in the north, the Mediterranean beaches, and at every available picnic ground - during popular holidays like Independence Day.

Somewhere deep in our minds we are still used to thinking of ourselves as we were on the eve of independence in May 1948 when we numbered 800,000 souls - Jews and Arabs - all told. At that time the part of Mandatory Palestine that became Israel could indeed be said to have been relatively underpopulated.

The main demographic fact of the ensuing 36 years is that in a world which is beset by the problem of population explosion, we are the only country that has more than quintupled its population.

In contrast, our neighbour to the south, Egypt, which is supposed to be a demographic catastrophe, has multiplied its population by only two-and-a-half times since 1948.

Israel's overcrowding is compounded all the more by our penchant for crowding into only a small part of what is, after all, a tiny country. The vast majority of the Jewish population is packed into the coastal strip between Hadera and Ashdod, with an additional large slice continuing that strip to Ashkelon in the south and through Haifa to Nahariya in the north.

Only Jerusalem has been a major exception in the past 17 years in attracting population into the interior of the country. Ben-Gurion's

dream of settling a large number of Israelis in the Negev has been a failure. Levi Eshkol's attempt to persuade Jews to move to the Galilee - a far more attractive area but still as far as Yeroham is from Dizengoff Circle - barely fared better. The Likud's Jewish settlement of Galilee is also no success.

This situation has not yet reached the proportions of Hongkong or Singapore, both city states with territories not much smaller than the settled part of Israel and with somewhat similar population masses. But if the demographic projections, which speak of Israel growing from its present 4.2 million to close to seven million in another 30 years, come true, then the problem will assume Hongkong dimensions.

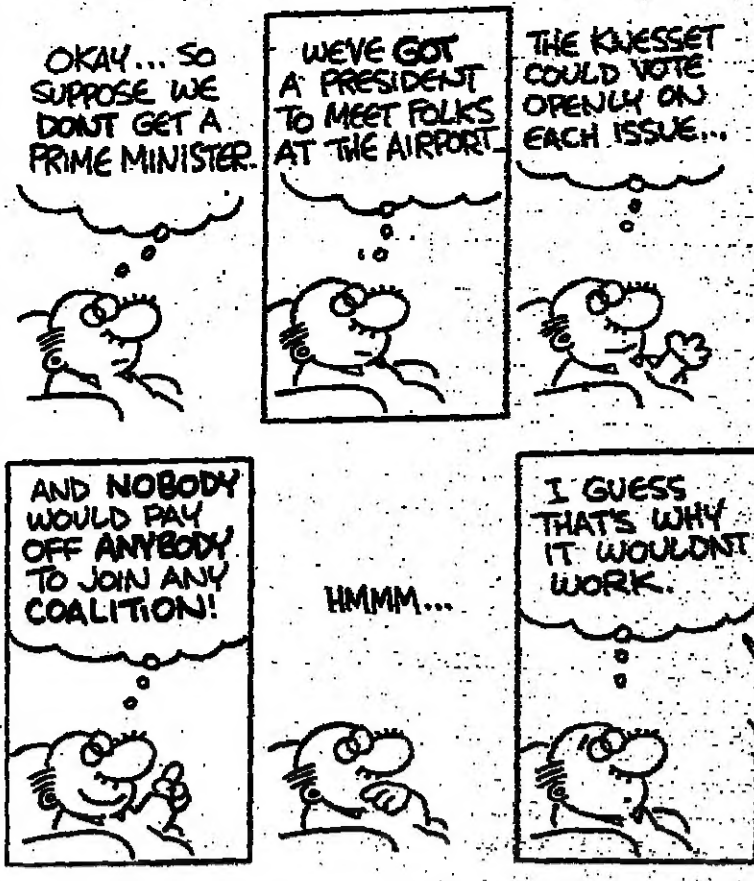
THE IMPLICATIONS of such extreme population density are manifold. I would like to remark here on two such implications: the need to develop highly sophisticated governmental mechanisms to manage and reduce social frictions in such an overcrowded society; and the need for all of us to learn to live in harmony, with people who are different from us.

Both are matters that need a great deal of study in an Israel that is relatively devoid of such attributes.

One of the worrying features of the recent elections is that, ideology aside, the average Israeli voter paid little, if any, attention to the question of the level of performance of his rulers. Voters expressed their preference for ideological posturing or for personal charm, but not for a job well done; or, on the other hand, they did not reject those who performed badly.

It is this consistent voter disregard for performance that is at the root of the long-term decline in the quality of our politicians, and often, of the top administrators they choose.

Dry Bones



Just the opposite is what is needed in densely populated societies. Israel is in need of top level leaders and administrators to make it possible to function in sardine-can conditions.

The country will also have to learn to live together in better fashion than has been done in the past. There is no need to be too pessimistic about it, for Israel has made impressive progress in having Jews of sharply divergent ethnic backgrounds managing to live in the same neighbourhoods. But, when it comes to Jews and Arabs, Israel has not even begun to try to achieve similar success, and it would seem that in regard to secular and observant Jews, the situation has become worse rather than better.

ARABS AND JEWS are not primarily a matter of the territories. Israel has legitimate cause to be concerned about the possible rise of an irredentist movement among Israeli Arabs as a result of Arab concentration in central Galilee. The answer to that problem is not only the moving of a larger number

of Jews to Galilee; it also means that Jewish Israel should welcome and make comfortable a larger number of Israeli Arabs in Jewish neighbourhoods outside Galilee.

Observant and secular Jews have long lived together all over the country. In recent years the trend, however, has been towards a greater emphasis on religious separatism - in schools, in the army and in physical living arrangements. Such self-willed ghettoization in response to the strengthening of ultra-Orthodoxy is exactly the opposite of what we need to make life comfortable in this country.

When our political leaders finish haggling over who will be chief bottle-washer in the ministry of broken bottles and who will be the minister in charge of out-of-order telephones, they will have to confront the real problems of this country, of which the problem of physical and psychological crowding is a critical one.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

The great divide

By SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

may be given some minimal autonomous rights but no more.

The latter argue that democracy is totally foreign and irrelevant to Arab society, pointing out that there is not a single democratic Arab state.

A THIRD dividing line is between those who care about the quality of the content of the barrel, and those who are concerned with its size; between those who prefer a small barrel full of vintage wine and those who don't care whether it is full of sewage water or dynamite, as long as it is large.

A fourth dividing line is between those who simply don't believe in peace between Jews and Arabs, based on compromise, and therefore conclude that in a state of perpetual war, Israel is much better off holding on to the territories than giving them up, and those who believe that such a peace is possible.

The latter do not see the world, including the Arab world, in static terms and therefore believe that, irrespective of the past, the future can be different.

Many perceive certain changes in the Arab world in general, and amongst the Palestinians in particular, which make settlement more likely now than ever in the past, though this state of affairs could reverse itself again if the trend of chauvinistic messianism continues to spread in Israel, and if Israel fails to

take advantage of the special circumstances of the day.

A fifth dividing line is between those who view the Arabs as inferior and detestable people who have nothing but evil in their hearts and must therefore be suppressed, oppressed and "encouraged" to leave the country and those who view the Arabs as a different people with their own characteristics and traditions - some worthy of admiration, others repugnant to Western society; a people whose qualities one should appreciate and whose shortcomings one should take into account.

A sixth dividing line is between those who believe that we, as Jews, should not do to others what was done to us in the Diaspora for two thousand years and that we should give to others what we have always demanded for ourselves, and those who refer to persons with such sentiments as "bleeding hearts," arguing that this is a world in which the fittest survive, not those who are more moral; a world where "might is right."

HOW ONE regards the future of the West Bank and Gaza, and what one believes should be done in them today and tomorrow, clearly depends on where one stands with regard to the various dividing lines.

One cannot compromise on any of

these positions - one can merely agree that while a national unity government tries to cure the Israeli economy, get the IDF out of the Lebanese quagmire and introduce some vital changes in the electoral system, a pre-agreed short-term programme will be implemented in the West Bank and Gaza.

I would be inclined to say that in return for enabling existing Jewish settlements in the territories to continue to develop, and enabling the establishment of new settlements in areas vital for Israel's security (the Labour-NRP formula), Labour should insist on Likud consent to enable the Arab West Bank and Gaza economies to develop, to allow some political activity among those Arab forces willing to recognize the need for coexistence with Israel, and to make life for the Arab population a little more tolerable.

None of this should involve a slackening in Israel's genuine security activities or prevent the enforcement of law and order not only between Jews and Arabs but among Arabs as well (one hears hair-raising stories about the consequences of the lack of law-and-order enforcement among the Arabs).

There is really no point in trying to work out an agreed position for negotiations with King Hussein and the Palestinians. Any formula which the Alignment and the Likud could agree to would mean that such negotiations would be a non-starter. Negotiations should only open if there are chances for their positive conclusion.

After a year or two of "national unity" and reform, the Israeli electorate should again be given expression - and this time, there should be no blurring of differences.

In the long run it is "either-or" on this issue. There is no compromise. Israel will either annex the territories or there will be a territorial compromise. One cannot freeze the status quo - ice melts in the Middle East climate.

The writer is a freelance contributor, researcher and lecturer.

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